Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-032
Tuesday
18 February 1992

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-92-032 18 February 1992

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An • indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

FRONT PAGE

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affa'rs

Arab League Protests 'Brutal' Israeli Raids *[Cairo Radio]* 3
Arab League Chief on Libyan Crisis, Israeli Raids *[MENA]* 3

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Upcoming Round of Peace Talks 3
'Ashrawi Discusses Attendance *[Jerusalem International]* 3
Five New Delegation Members Named *[KUNA]* 4
Israel Detains Two Delegates *[AFP]* 4
'Ashrawi Announces Withdrawal From Talks *[AFP]* 4
'Abd-Rabbuh Confirms Suspension *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 5
'Barbaric' Israeli Raid Against Sidon Reported *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 5
PLO Condemns Attacks on Camps; 4 Killed *[AFP]* 5
Radio Mourns Death of Hizballah's al-Musawi *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 5
'Arafat Sends Condolences *[Algiers VOP]* 5
PFLP-GC's Jibril Cables Condolences *[Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio]* 6
'Arafat Alleges Violations of Palestinian Rights *[Algiers VOP]* 6
PLO Probe—Libya Innocent of Lockerbie Charges *[Algiers VOP]* 7

OPEC Affairs

Oil Ministers Agree on 22.9 MBD Ceiling 8
Accord To Take Effect 1 Mar *[AFP]* 8
Press Release Details Agreement *[OPECNA]* 8
Saudi Oil Minister Comments *[Riyadh Radio]* 9
Aqazadeh on Saudi 'Failure To Agree' *[Tehran Radio]* 10

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Boudiaf Discusses Security Situation With Media *[Algiers TV]* 11
Outlines State Priorities *[Algiers TV]* 11
More on Press Briefing *[Algiers TV]* 11
Boudiaf Asks Iran Not To 'Intervene' *[MENA]* 14
FIS Cancels Algiers Demonstration *[Paris Radio]* 15
Further Reportage on Security Situation 15
Security Forces Kill Five in Algiers Clash *[Algiers TV]* 15
Soldier Wounded at Martyrs Square *[Algiers Radio]* 15
Algiers Police Station Attacked *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Arrests in Ain Defla, Mostaganem *[Algiers Radio]* 16
Algiers 'Calm' 15 Feb *[Algiers TV]* 16
Man Arrested After Firing at Troops *[AFP]* 16
Arrests in Boufarik, Tebessa *[Algiers Radio]* 17

Egypt

Al-Bishari Arrives in Cairo To Discuss 'Crisis' *[Cairo Radio]* 17
Meets Musa, Discusses Ties *[MENA]* 17
Protest Filed With Israel Over 'Espionage' *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 17
Newspapers Condemn Israeli Attack in Lebanon *[MENA]* 17

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, 'Arafat Discuss Developments *[Algiers VOP]* 18
Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Azerbaijani, Kazakh Ministers *[JANA]* 18
Official Welcomes 'Positive' Security Council Move *[JANA]* 18

Sudan

Students Boycott Exams; Police Make Arrests *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 18
Al-Bashir Receives Iraqi Labor Minister *[Omdurman Radio]* 19

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Saudi Arabia

'Official Source' Denies Arrests, Dissent *[SPA]* 20

ISRAEL

Three Soldiers Killed in 14 Feb Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Arens: Fatah-'Arafat Thought Responsible *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 21
Sees Link to 'Headquarters' in Jordan *[Jerusalem Radio]* 21
Levi Reacts to Killing *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
'Black Panthers' Claim Responsibility *[AL HAMISHMAR 16 Feb]* 22
Shamir's Media Adviser, Others React *[Jerusalem Radio]* 22
Additional Reaction Reported *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23
Palestinians Link Killings, IDF Policy *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 23
Hizballah's al-Musawi Killed in Air Force Raid *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Arens Sees 'Message' *[Jerusalem TV]* 24
Shamir on al-Musawi's Death *[Jerusalem Radio]* 24
Levi: Raid Not To Affect Peace Process *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Baraq: 'Heavy Price' if Attacks Continue *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 25
Additional Comment *[Jerusalem Radio]* 26
Arens on Lebanese Government Role *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 26
Addresses Knesset on Incidents *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Sharon Urges End to Hizballah, Panthers *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Lubrani on Killing of al-Musawi *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
15 Feb Attack on 'Terrorist Targets' Reported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Reports on Katyusha, Artillery Exchanges *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Artillery Fired North of Zone *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Further Firing as IDF, SLA Retaliate *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Another Round Causes Slight Damage *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Palestinians Suspend Departure for Peace Talks *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 28
'Urayqat: 'Strong Message' Intended *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
'Ashrawi: Process 'Near Collapse' *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Settlements Must Be Discussed *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
Palestinians' Seven-Point Paper *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
Netanyahu: Israeli Delegation To Depart on Time *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Levi: No Retreat From 'Substance' of Camp David *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30

JORDAN

Abu-Jabir Denounces Israeli Raids in Lebanon *[Amman Radio]* 31
Editorial Denounces Israeli 'Organized Terrorism' *[AL-DUSTUR 17 Feb]* 31

LEBANON

Hizballah Leader Killed in Israeli Air Attack 32
Beirut Radio Reports Attack 32
Tehran Radio Describes Attack 32
Hizballah Reacts to Killing of al-Musawi 32
Radio Issues Call For Vengeance *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 32
Official Statement Issued *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 33
Strike, Period of Mourning Called *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 33
Final al-Musawi Speech Reported *[RFL]* 33
New Secretary General Elected *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 33
Lebanese Government Reacts to Israeli Action 33
Al-Husayni, Karami View Attack *[VOL]* 33
Chamber of Deputies Calls for Unity *[VOM]* 34
Security Council Session Urged *[VOL]* 34
Ambassadors Summoned *[Beirut Radio]* 34
PRC, Russian Envoys Comment *[VOM]* 34
Factions, Others React to al-Musawi Killing 35
Fadlallah Urges 'Greater Resolve' *[Tehran Radio]* 35
Urges Continued Struggle *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 35
IUM, Amal Mourn al-Musawi *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 35
'Ignite the Fire of Anger' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 36
Shiites Urge Boycott of Talks *[VOM]* 36
Phalangist Leader Condemns Action *[VOL]* 36
Editorial Denounces 'Crime' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 37
Al-Din, Nabih Birri Cited *[London MBC TV]* 37
Groups Call for Strikes *[RFL]* 38
'Thousands' Join al-Musawi Funeral Procession 38
South Beirut 'Paralyzed' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38
'Israel Will Know the Price' *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 38
Junblatt Urges Unity *[VOM]* 39
Procession Arrives in Ba'labakk *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 39
Bodies Lie in State *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 39
Procession Leaves for al-Nabi Shit *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 40
Jannati, Fadlallah Speak *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 40
Continued Resistance Vowed *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 40
Shelling, Bombings, Air Raids Reported in South 40
Defense Ministry Issues Statement *[VOL]* 40
Mock Raids, Shelling Reported *[VOL]* 40
Hizballah, Army Clash With Israelis *[RFL]* 41
Rockets Fired on Northern Israel *[VOL]* 41
Further on Shelling, Rocket Attack *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Situation in South at 'Boiling Point' *[Beirut Radio]* 41
'Resistance,' Israelis Trade Shellings *[VOL]* 42
Israelis Conduct Mock Raids Over Tyre *[RFL]* 42
Israeli Artillery Reported in Marj 'Uyun *[RFL]* 42
Israeli Helicopters Raid Villages *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 42
Attack Reportedly Wounds Fatah Official *[VOM]* 42
Government Accepts Invitation To Washington Talks *[Beirut Radio]* 42
Killing 'Will Not Dissuade Lebanon' *[Beirut Radio]* 42

SYRIA

Lebanese President al-Hirawi Arrives in Damascus 44
Received by al-Asad *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Leaders Agree on Attending Talks *[Damascus Radio]* 44
Further on Decision To Attend *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 44
Editorials Cited on Israeli Raid, Peace Process 44
'Barbaric Raids' Denounced *[SANA]* 44
'Feverish' Attempt 'To Disrupt' Talks *[SANA]* 45
U.S. Urged To 'Curb' Israel *[Damascus Radio]* 45

SOUTH ASIA

Iran

ECO Summit Addresses International Developments 46
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Opening Speech *[IRNA]* 46
Velayati on Closed-Door Session *[IRNA]* 46
President Meets Caspian Area Leaders *[IRNA]* 47
ECO Admits Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan *[IRNA]* 48
Caspian Sea Pact Established *[Tehran Radio]* 48
Caspian Pact To Draft Constitution *[IRNA]* 48
Velayati Holds News Conference *[IRNA]* 49
Azerbaijani Leader on Iranian Mediation *[Tehran Radio]* 49
President, Tajik Foreign Minister Meet *[IRNA]* 49
Karrubi, Uzbek Counterpart Confer *[IRNA]* 49
Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan Seek Oil Ties *[IRNA]* 50
ECO Summit Ends; Communique Issued *[IRNA]* 50
ECO as Political Entity Ruled Out *[IRNA]* 51
Killing of Lebanese Hizballah Leader Condemned 52
Khamene'i, Rafsanjani, Majles Statements *[Tehran Radio]* 52
Hizballah Radio Carries Khamene'i Statement *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 53
Khomeyni Issues Statement *[Tehran TV]* 53
Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 'Ugly Act' *[IRNA]* 53
Velayati Condemns Assassination *[IRNA]* 54
Foreign Ministry—'Contempt' Toward Killing *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Delegation Departs for Funeral *[Tehran Radio]* 54
Guards Corps Pays Tribute *[Editorial Report]* 54
Commentary Reviews al-Musawi's Life *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Al-Musawi Assassination 'Horrific' *[Tehran Radio]* 55
Commentary—Islamic Resistance To Continue *[Tehran Radio]* 56
President on Turkey's Seizure of Arms-Laden Ship *[IRNA]* 56
Aqazadeh—OPEC Production Cut 'Disappointing' *[Tehran TV]* 57
Kuwaiti Interior Minister Invited To Visit *[IRNA]* 57

Israel

Three IDF trainee reservists were killed by "terrorists" in a 14 February attack inside the Green Line, Jerusalem radio reported. The next day, Defense Minister Arens told Tel Aviv radio that the "appropriate conclusions" would have to be drawn. In the same interview, he implicated Yasir 'Arafat's wing of Fatah in the attack, later telling Jerusalem radio that the group's headquarters in Jordan was involved. Foreign Minister Levi, noting the lack of condemnation by Palestinian Arabs, said it is "inconceivable" to hold talks on peace with people who do not condemn such deeds, the radio continued. On 16 February, an Air Force raid on a convoy in south Lebanon killed Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi, Jerusalem radio reported, citing an IDF statement. Commenting, Arens told Jerusalem television that he hopes the raid will be interpreted as "a message to all the terrorist organizations that we will settle the score with all those who have an outstanding debt with us." Asked whether the raid was designed especially to target al-Musawi, Arens said: "The attack was designed to hit Hizballah. Presumably, the fact that he was killed was not entirely coincidental." Expressing regret that members of al-Musawi's family had been killed in the attack, Shamir added that "these things can happen," Jerusalem radio reported. The foreign minister told a Knesset committee that the death of al-Musawi will not affect the peace process, Tel Aviv radio noted. Jerusalem media reported on a subsequent exchange of rocket and artillery fire between Hizballah and combined IDF-South Lebanese Army forces, while the defense minister and the chief of staff, both speaking to Tel Aviv radio, emphasized the role of the Lebanese Government in stopping attacks from the north. Elsewhere, the Palestinian delegates to Arab-Israeli talks "decided to suspend their departure...for the time being," Tel Aviv radio disclosed. One delegate told Jerusalem radio that a "strong message" was intended, while Hanan 'Ashrawi told the radio that the peace process "is near collapse." Reacting to the move, Deputy Minister Netanyahu told the radio that the Israeli delegation will leave for Washington "on time." Commenting on the prime minister's recent remarks distancing himself from the Camp David agreements, the foreign minister told a Knesset committee that he agrees with Shamir "that there is no need to stick to every letter and word;" nevertheless, "there is no Israeli retreat from either the Camp David accords or from the idea of autonomy," he told the radio.

Lebanon

Hizballah's official statement, as well as its call "not to fire in the air, because these bullets should be used for vengeance, which should come quickly," were broadcast by Voice of the Oppressed, which also announced the appointment of Hasan Nasrallah as al-Musawi's successor. National media reported reactions by several clerics, politicians, and political groups.

Syria, Lebanon

—The presidents of the two countries agreed to take part in the next phase of Arab-Israeli talks, Damascus radio reported. The foreign minister said the weekend's actions by Israel "will not dissuade Lebanon from taking part in the 24 February talks in Washington," Beirut radio added.

Palestinian Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat's and Ahmad Jibril's messages on the death of al-Musawi were reported by Algiers Voice of Palestine (VOP) and the clandestine al-Quds radio respectively. A PLO investigation has determined that Libya is innocent of complicity in the Lockerbie case, according to VOP, which added a PLO spokesman's remark that the results of the probe can be given to President Bush if he asks 'Arafat for it.

Iran

Tehran radio reported messages by Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Khamene'i on the death of 'Abbas al-Musawi. The Hizballah's Voice of the Oppressed broadcast additional details from Khamene'i's message on the incident. Ahmad Khomeyni's message, reported by Tehran television, noted that "there is no other way for all revolutionaries but martyrdom, jihad, war, and struggle." The petroleum minister termed the OPEC decision to cut the production of oil as "disappointing," the television disclosed. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's speech opening an Iran-Turkey-Pakistan cooperation group, in which Muslim states of the former Soviet Union participated for the first time, was reported by IRNA, which also transmitted the final communique of the expanded group's deliberations.

Algeria

In an extensive media briefing reported by Algiers television, Mohamed Boudiaf outlined five priorities for the country, among which was "purging" public institutions.

OPEC

The cartel's press agency OPECNA reported details of the group's decision to limit the production of oil to 22.982 million barrels per day. Iran expressed "reservation" at a higher ceiling, while Saudi Arabia wanted its share of production increased, the agency continued. The cartel decided to reconvene when Iraq reenters the market, the agency added. The Saudi minister's comments on the agreement were reported by Riyadh radio, while Tehran radio cited the Iranian minister's opinion that the Saudi "failure to agree" caused the session to "face difficulty."

Saudi Arabia

An "official source" told SPA that, contrary to reports by "hired newspapers," "there are neither detentions in the Kingdom nor differences" between either officials or religious leaders and students. "Complete stability and closeness between its leadership and the Saudi people" exists, the source added.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Protests 'Brutal' Israeli Raids

NC1702160992 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] The Arab League General Secretariat has emphasized that the three raids mounted by Israel in the past two days against the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Rashidiyah Palestinian camps and a civilian parking lot in Lebanon [not further specified], and the resulting civilian casualties represent a new aggression and a new Israeli measure designed to abort all the efforts being made by Arab states to establish peace in the region.

In a statement, the Secretariat added that these brutal raids, which infringe on Lebanon's sovereignty, are early signs of serious acts which Israel will embark upon inside and outside the occupied territories. This indicates that Israel plans to mount more terrorist acts which are bound to plunge the region into a quagmire of instability and lack of security.

The League appealed to the international community, particularly the two peace conference sponsors, to take the necessary measures to stop the repeated Israeli acts of aggression, which will have an adverse effect on the peace process in the region.

Arab League Chief on Libyan Crisis, Israeli Raids

NC1802151692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1304 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Alexandria, 18 Feb (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has announced that Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, told him during a recent meeting in Libya that his country is willing to implement UN Security Council Resolution 731 and to cooperate with the United Nations in accordance with international agreements on the issue of the accusations leveled at two Libyan nationals over the downing of a U.S. airplane over Scotland in 1988.

Answering a question by a MENA correspondent, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the current Libyan position is "moderate and flexible", as it has been since the crisis began.

He added that the Arab League's efforts to resolve this issue are based on the two resolutions it passed on 5 December 1991 and 16 January 1992. These two resolutions emphasize Libya's wish to handle the crisis in a peaceful manner.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that he is expecting an international response to Libya's flexibility to avoid imposing sanctions on it.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid made these remarks during an inspection visit to the installations of the Arab Academy for Maritime Transport in Abu Qir, where he also attended the graduation of a new class of basic studies students.

Commenting on the recent Israeli air raids on southern Lebanon and Israel's arrest of two members of the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace talks, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Israel is obstructing peace through these actions. He noted that the Arab League declared its view on this issue in a statement yesterday. 'Abd-al-Majid added that Israel's provocative acts are sabotaging the peace efforts. Noting that the world community must shoulder its responsibility and adopt a firm stand on Israel, he urged this community to act promptly to stop these inhuman acts which hamper the peace process.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid warned the Arab countries not to fall prey to Israeli provocations, which are designed to exploit Arabs' mistakes. He said: Our experience proves that this is the method Israel uses whenever the crisis is submitted to international discussion.

On the situation in Somalia, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Somalia is a fraternal Arab country and that the Arab League is doing its utmost to reconcile the conflicting Somali parties in cooperation with the United Nations, the OAU, and the Islamic Conference Organization. The Arab League secretary general pointed out that current efforts seek primarily to halt the fighting in that country, to extend relief aid to the Somali people, and encourage a dialogue among the conflicting sides in order to resolve the crisis through peaceful means.

Palestinian Affairs

Reportage on Upcoming Round of Peace Talks

'Ashrawi Discusses Attendance

JN1702121792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1100 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian peace talks delegation, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, has the Palestinian side received an invitation to attend the bilateral talks next week in Washington, and what is the Palestinian side's official position?

['Ashrawi] We received the invitation last week and we studied it carefully. We also received a letter from Baker addressed to Faysal al-Husayni, which we also studied. We are in the process of formulating a comprehensive and full response to it. The PLO announced two days ago that it agrees to attend the session of the talks due to start on 24 February in Washington.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, there have been reports that the Palestinian side has submitted a letter to the Israeli delegation. How true are these reports?

['Ashrawi] The Palestinian side has not submitted any additional letter outside the context of the talks. The documents which were announced before concerning the agenda and the Palestinian perspective on the transitional phase, have been submitted. Reports about submitting additional points and additional letters are untrue.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, what is the reason behind broadening the base of the Palestinian side and increasing the number of members, while knowing that the upcoming talks will be limited to procedural issues?

['Ashrawi] First, it has already been announced that there is an intention to broaden the Palestinian base to include additional qualified Palestinian persons. This has been discussed and studied for some time now. Second, we consider this phase to be decisive and we think that this session will affect the entire process, including the multilaterals. One of our conditions to attend and participate in the working groups of the multilaterals was the attainment of substantive progress in the bilaterals. If Israel's position is to limit the talks to procedural issues, then we reject this because we abide by the request made to us by the cosponsors to enter into negotiations on the substance, on the transitional phase. We want to achieve a tangible result on the ground during this session, which we consider to be very important. As for full or expanded participation, a few names were added after careful study. These persons will strengthen the delegation's competence and give us further dimensions and qualifications to serve the cause and the negotiations.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan, seeing as we are talking about this subject, who will be the new members of the Palestinian side?

['Ashrawi] In fact, the new members will be announced later. There are, however, a few additional names including Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah, Dr. Sa'adah al-'Amiri, Dr. Nazim al-Ju'bah, and Jabir Faddah. There are also two more people, whose names we have already given to the cosponsors, but they were detained: Muhammad Hurani and Jamal al-Shubaki.

[Mu'addi] Thank you, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokeswoman for the Palestinian side.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

Five New Delegation Members Named

LD1802105292 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1000 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Amman, 18 Feb—The Palestinian delegation to the bilateral peace talks is due here tomorrow from the occupied territories en route to the U.S. capital to attend the meetings which will begin there on 24 February.

According to reports received from the occupied homeland, it has been decided to add five new members to the Palestinian delegation. They are: Dr. Sa'adah al-'Amiri and Dr. Hasan Abu-Libdah from Bir Zayt University; Dr. Anwar Dudin from Hebron; and 'Abd-al-Hadi Abu-Khassah from the Gaza Strip. It was also decided to add Dr. Nazim al-Ju'bah of Bir Zayt University as a member of the delegation's advisory committee.

Israel Detains Two Delegates

NC1702222292 Paris AFP in English 2210 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb 17 (AFP)—Two members of a Palestinian delegation due to attend Middle East peace talks in Washington next week are under detention by Israeli security forces, the delegation said Monday.

The delegation said it had sent a protest to the United States, saying the arrests undermined the peace process and the Palestinians' credibility.

Jamal al-Shubaki was arrested Saturday shortly after his name was added to the list of delegation members sent to the U.S. Consulate General, a statement from the delegation said.

He was to have been part of the delegation during the last series of bilateral negotiations in January, but he was forbidden to leave the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Muhammad Hurani, the other delegate, was put under administrative detention on January 9 for a period of nine months.

He was part of the delegation's orientation (steering) committee and was not to participate directly in peace talks.

"The Palestinian delegation looks upon this matter with the utmost seriousness and considers these acts as a direct challenge to the peace process in general and the credibility of the Palestinian team in particular," the delegation said.

'Ashrawi Announces Withdrawal From Talks

NC1802082192 Paris AFP in English 0807 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Jerusalem, Feb 18 (AFP)—The Palestinians will pull out of the next round of Arab-Israeli bilateral peace talks in Washington, spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi told a news conference here.

She said the Palestinian delegation would not attend the third round of bilaterals scheduled for February 24 because of repeated Israeli provocations, notably because of the arrest of two members of the delegation and Israel's settlement policy in the occupied territories.

'Abd-Rabbuh Confirms Suspension

JN1802113192 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, chief of the PLO Information Department, has affirmed that the Palestinian leadership has decided to suspend the Palestinian delegation's departure for Washington in the wake of Israeli practices and arrests.

He added that this decision could result in the Palestinians boycotting the fourth round of talks.

'Barbaric' Israeli Raid Against Sidon Reported

JN1602184292 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1745 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Excerpt] In reprisal for the daring, heroic operation carried out by the martyr Mahdi Abu-al-Hasan unit of the heroic Black Panther group against Camp 80, near the city of Umm al-Nur in 1948-occupied Palestinian Galilee, which led to the killing of three Zionist soldiers and the wounding of two others; and to take revenge against our defenseless civilians, the Zionist enemy forces launched a barbaric raid against Sidon, in southern Lebanon, at 0025 which led to the martyrdom of four citizens and the injury of six more. Also, a two-story building was destroyed. [passage omitted]

PLO Condemns Attacks on Camps; 4 Killed

NC1602150192 Paris AFP in English 1432 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Tunis, Feb 16 (AFP)—The PLO on Sunday denounced as "criminal aggression" two Israeli air raids on Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon that killed four civilians and injured 10.

"This new crime perpetrated by Israel against innocent civilians shows the reality of Israeli policy, which is based on aggression and the rejection of peace and international law," Palestine Liberation Organization spokesman Ahmad 'Abd-al-Rahman said here.

Israeli warplanes and helicopters early Sunday attacked the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Rashidiyah camps 24 hours after three Israeli soldiers were stabbed and hacked to death in an Arab raid on a military facility north of Tel Aviv.

Lebanese hospital sources put the death toll from the air strikes at four—three Lebanese children and a woman and said 10 civilians were wounded, including three Palestinians.

"Israel knew very well that these refugee camps have housed neither weapons nor armed forces for several months," 'Abd-al-Rahman charged.

"The Israeli occupier has once again shown its determination to use nothing but force and aggression to perpetuate its occupation of Palestinian and Arab land."

'Abd-al-Rahman justified the attack on the Israeli soldiers as "a legitimate act of resistance against the terrorism and repression practiced by the occupier."

"This resistance operation was carried out by Palestinians deprived of weapons and ready to sacrifice their lives for the independence of their country," he said, adding that Israel would use "any pretext whatsoever for its premeditated aggression."

The violence over the weekend came just ahead of another round of bilateral Arab-Israeli peace talks, set to get under way in Washington February 24.

In Amman PLO information head Yasir 'Abd-al-Rabbuh confirmed Sunday that the Palestinian delegation would attend the negotiations as planned.

Radio Mourns Death of Hizballah's al-Musawi

JN1602180992 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] The al-Quds Radio family, along with the Arab and Islamic nation, mourns the struggler martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi, secretary general of Hizballah. Hizballah radio confirmed a short while ago in Lebanon that struggler martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi was martyred while inspecting the Islamic resistance in southern Lebanon by a Zionist raid that targeted his motorcade by showering the motorcade with guided missiles.

While mourning the struggler martyr, the al-Quds Radio family acknowledges its loss, and the Arab and Islamic nation's loss, of a great struggler who pledged himself to jihad to liberate the occupied Arab territories. From God we are, and unto Him we shall return.

'Arafat Sends Condolences

LD1702203992 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 17 Feb 92

The brother leader, President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine, today sent a cable of condolences to His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual leader of Hizballah, on the martyrdom of Shaykh Abbas al-Musawi, the party general secretary, during yesterday's air attack by Zionist enemy aircraft against Shaykh al-Musawi's motorcade. The text of the cable follows:

In the name of God the merciful, the compassionate,

Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God. Of them, some have completed their vow, while some still wait. But they have never changed their determination in the least. God has spoken the truth. [Koranic verse]

Your Eminence honorable brother Sayid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, dear brothers in the Hizballah Consultative Council: the revolution's greetings.

We received with great sorrow and anger the news of the martyrdom of dear brother Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, the general secretary of Hizballah; his wife and son, and other mujahidin comrades during the barbaric Israeli raid on the land of southern Lebanon.

Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi has fallen while at the peak of his militant contribution in the defense of his religion and belief. He was militant, patient, and steadfast in the defense of the deprived, the land of fraternal Lebanon, and the Palestinian cause. Our comfort in his absence is the steadfastness and jihad of the militant mujahidin of Hizballah and their brothers, the militant mujahidin of the Lebanese national movement and of the Palestinian revolution. They form the protective shield and the impervious barricade against the Israeli expansion and the Israeli crimes against our fraternal Lebanese and Palestinian peoples, and against our Arab and Islamic nation.

I beseech God, the sublime and the omnipotent, to bestow His wide compassion on our heroic martyr, Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, and on all other heroic martyrs who left with him, and to provide them the abode of His wide paradise. I beg you to convey our warmest heartfelt sympathy and sincere condolences to the families of the martyrs.

It is the march of our common jihad against the enemies of our Arab-Islamic nation.

Glory and immortality to our loyal martyrs.

It is a revolution until victory.

PFLP-GC's Jibril Cables Condolences

JN1702190592 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC], sent the following cable to the Hizballah leadership in the name of the Front and the intifadah:

Faithful, struggler brothers in Hizballah: At a time when many are bowing to Jewish and Western imperialist infidelity, struggler Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, secretary general of your party and the unique Islamic leader, was martyred by the criminal U.S.-made Jewish missiles. [passage omitted]

The struggler fighters in Lebanon, Palestine, and throughout the Arab and Islamic nation are lowering their eyes in respect for the remains of the martyred shaykh and pledge to remain in the trenches of struggle against the Zionists and in support of Islam and the Muslims, the south, and Jerusalem. They also view this great martyrdom as an incentive to undermine the spirit of despair and defeatism, and to ignite and continue the fire of the battle until the great goal of the liberation of Palestine and the Arab and Islamic land from the criminal Zionists is achieved. [passage omitted]

[Signed] PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril

'Arafat Alleges Violations of Palestinian Rights

LD1402205292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Brothers, the brother, president, and leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO Executive committee, held a news conference after his speech in Geneva to the UN Human Rights Committee yesterday.

Brother, president, and leader Abu-'Ammar discussed most of the important issues that concern the Palestinian issue and its developments in light of the peace talks and Israeli talks which seek to hamper the peace process through Israel's insistence on continuing the policy of building settlements and the seizure of land and the acts of murder, torture, and terror against our Palestinian people inside the occupied areas.

The brother president and leader Abu-'Ammar answered all the newsmen's questions. He affirmed the right of our people and their determination to continue their intifadah. He warned against the consequences of an erroneous interpretation of the Palestinian participation in the peace process.

Brother president Abu-'Ammar emphasized that the United States and the other international powers are called on to implement the international pledges and resolutions that concern a just peace in the Middle East, which is based on exchanging land for peace. Brother president Abu-'Ammar also emphasized the Palestinian stands toward the various current issues and defined the Palestinian attitudes toward them.

In answer to a question about the reports spread by the U.S. television network CNN, brother Abu-'Ammar described France as a state which is friendly to our people. We are linked with it by many relations which we cherish. Brother Abu-'Ammar lauded France's stand supporting the just rights of our Palestinian people and the resolutions of international legitimacy. In this connection he said: We do not forget the French aid to our people in more than one field.

As for the question of CNN, this is not directed at me. It is first of all fabricated, and also it is directed at the French Government, where some forces have been spying on its telephone conversations. Therefore, it concerns France alone and it is the right of France to raise it with those who spy on its telephone conversations. The brother president asked: Is this not contrary to human rights? Is this not contrary to the codes of conduct between states and a violation of the sovereignty of states, and has anyone the right to spy on a telephone conversation? I leave the answer to this question to my friends in France.

In reply to a question on the issue of our comrade Dr. George Habash [secretary general of the Popular Front

for the Liberation of Palestine], brother president leader Abu-'Ammar said: Brother George Habash is one of our leaders who became ill. An agreement was reached between the Palestinian Red Crescent and the French Red Cross on providing him with humanitarian treatment. Was this such a crime that needed all this storm? It was a shame on whoever raised a clamor about a humanitarian health issue. Is the new world order devoid of humanity, and does it prohibit [medical] treatment? Furthermore, Dr. Habash did not travel covertly. He went on the basis of an agreement between the Palestinian Red Crescent and the French Red Cross. A fully equipped air ambulance took him. What is the crime in this?

In reply to a question on human rights in Palestine, the brother president said: Occupation and human rights are incompatible. As long as there is occupation, there will be a violation of human rights. Our people's rights are being violated. In my speech a short while ago I gave some figures, backed by evidence which I produced at the commission, concerning the victims of Israeli repression. These were derived from reports by two medical teams from Belgium and the United States which took samples of the bombs that Israel claims to be tear gas bombs. They discovered that these were internationally banned chemical bombs.

A number of Palestinian families are now suing the U.S. firms which sold, delivered, or donated those weapons to Israel to kill our children and force our women to miscarry. There have been over 3,500 miscarriages as a result of them, and these chemical weapons have caused over 6,000 disabilities. There are over 120,000 wounded. There are 98,000 people in prisons. There are collective prisons similar to World War II Nazi detention camps. I believe that you have information on the destruction of houses, their being boarded up, and the eviction of their inhabitants so as to establish settlements in their place.

That is an open violation of international law and the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, particularly Article Four, which specifies the conduct of the occupying state during and after war, and which prohibits it from creating geographical and topographic changes in it [the occupied region]. To guarantee that the Geneva Conventions are being respected by all other countries, the world is required to put pressure on Israel to respect these conventions under all circumstances. Therefore, the United States—in view of it being the only universal power—and the other great world powers are duty bound by an absolute international legal undertaking to prevent Israel from committing its crimes against Palestinian civilians, seizing land, desecrating Muslim and Christian sacred places, and transporting Jewish emigrants from Russia, East Europe, and Africa to occupied Palestinian territories, including Jerusalem.

This is a violation of international law, the Geneva Convention, and human rights, a violation which takes place every day. Are our children different from other people's children? Should Palestinian women be denied the same protection which is made available to pregnant women everywhere, only because they are Palestinian? Is this the new world order?

In reply to a question about the possibility of the PLO offering other concessions to make the Middle East peace process successful, brother president leader Abu-'Ammar replied by saying: We are requesting our rights in accordance with international legitimacy and the resolutions of international legitimacy. When we abandon the resolutions of international legitimacy, we must be held responsible, and I do not demand the impossible; I demand international legitimacy. I demand the articles that were included in President Bush's initiative, in its capacity as the only international power that says land for peace, [UN Resolutions] 242 and 338, i.e. the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the territories they occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem, and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, in accordance with international legitimacy and international resolutions.

I have offered a concession. I have accepted Madrid for the continuation and convening of the peace conference despite the Israeli veto of the Palestinian delegation. Give me one example in the world in which the opponent imposed on his adversary the names of the delegation negotiating with him. Where has this happened in the whole world, whether in the past or in recent times? We have offered this concession, and it seems that some have misunderstood our attempts to push the peace process, and that they are now trying to divide our people between the inside and the outside [those living inside or outside occupied Arab territories], in particular our people in Jerusalem, and to deprive them of their natural right and strip them of their belonging to the Palestinian people. Is that reasonable?

PLO Probe—Libya Innocent of Lockerbie Charges

LD1602194792 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, information adviser to brother president leader Abu-'Ammar, has affirmed that the PLO has carried out a secret investigation and has in its possession a file which proves that Libya is innocent and had nothing to do with the 1988 attack against the U.S. aircraft over Lockerbie.

In a statement, brother Abu-Sharif said that the PLO has in its possession a detailed list of the people directly involved in preparing and carrying out the Lockerbie operation; this is the result of a long investigation secretly carried out by the PLO, during which it gathered very accurate information. The PLO is prepared to cooperate with a commission of inquiry to verify the accuracy and authenticity of its file.

Brother Abu-Sharif also said that the PLO is prepared to put the special file on Lockerbie at the disposal of U.S. President George Bush if he requests it from president Yasir 'Arafat.

OPEC Affairs

Oil Ministers Agree on 22.9 MBD Ceiling

Accord To Take Effect 1 Mar

AU1502195692 Paris AFP in English 1913 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Jan Kristiansen report]

[Text] Geneva, Feb 15 (AFP) — Oil ministers of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Saturday [15 February] night agreed a new crude oil production ceiling of 22.9 million barrels a day (MBD), intended to steady prices by reducing supply on world markets. The accord, clinched after four days of hard bargaining, was reported by Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, who said, "I'm not really satisfied."

Iraqi Oil Minister Usamah al-Hiti confirmed there was an agreement as ministers left a plenary meeting in a Geneva hotel at 7:30 p.m. (1830 GMT).

Delegates said the accord would take effect on March 1 and would cover the period until the end of next June. They said the ministerial Market Monitoring Committee (MMC), which began its talks here on Wednesday, would meet again on April 24.

The new ceiling compares with OPEC's previous notional ceiling of 23.65 MBD, but current output from the producers' club is estimated at 24.2 MBD.

The new pact will therefore not remove more than about 1.3 MBD from the oversupplied market, Western oil analysts said, adding that the market was bound to be disappointed by the figure.

The agreement sets maximum production levels for each of the 13 countries, likely to be included into a communique to be read out late Saturday by OPEC secretary general Subroto, ministers said.

'Abd-al-'Aziz Bin-Khalifah al-Thani, Qatar's oil minister, said "there will be changes for everybody."

Delegation sources said Saudi Arabia agreed to cut its output from about 8.5 MBD at present to 7.887 MBD, while Iran was allocated a production level of 3.184 MBD. Iran produced 3.5 MBD on average in December and January, according to the latest data compiled by the Paris-based International Energy Agency.

Press Release Details Agreement

LD1502225692 Vienna OPECNA in English 2100 GMT 15 Feb 92

["Special Transmission"]

[Text] Geneva, 15 Feb. 92 (OPECNA)—At the end today of the 6th meeting of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee (MMC) of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the following press release was issued here:

Sixth Meeting of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee

Geneva, Switzerland, 12th to 15th February, 1992

The sixth meeting of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee convened in Geneva, Switzerland, from 12th to 15th February, 1992, in accordance with the decision taken at the 90th meeting of the OPEC conference of November, 1991 to review the developments in the oil market with a view to setting the production level for the second quarter of this year and fine-tuning the level for the first quarter 1992.

The committee reviewed the report of the secretariat on the oil market situation as well as the report of the meeting of experts from member countries on the same subject.

The committee noted the weakness in the oil market which, resulting from the relatively sluggish world economic performance, has led to slackened oil demand, lagging behind supply, since November, 1991. The committee also observed that as the unseasonably warm weather had led to a reduced drawdown of normally built-up stocks, crude oil prices have, consequently, remained weak, with the OPEC basket price being about 4 US dollars below the 21 US dollars/bbl minimum reference set in July, 1990.

In view of the huge stock overhang, the prevailing high production of member countries, currently estimated at around 24.2 mb/d [million barrels per day], and the concern of a further oil price deterioration, especially in the second quarter usually characterized by lower demand, the committee decided that OPEC's production ceiling shall, with immediate effect, not exceed 22.982 mb/d including Iraq's current production of 505,000 b/d and be distributed among member countries as follows:

(Country)	(mb/d)
Algeria	0.760
Ecuador	0.273
Gabon	0.273
Indonesia	1.374
I.R. Iran	3.184
S.P. Libyan A.J.	1.395
Nigeria	1.751
Qatar	0.377
Saudi Arabia	7.887
United Arab Emirates	2.244
Venezuela	2.147
Kuwait	0.812

The Islamic Republic of Iran has expressed reservation to the effect that a ceiling higher than 22.5 mb/d is a

danger to the market. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, in turn, did not endorse its allocated production level of 7.887 mb/d and maintained its offer to reduce by 500,000 b/d. Saudi Arabia wanted, as its production level, 8 mb/d and wanted very much a reasonable agreement both concerning the ceiling and production levels acceptable to all member countries.

The committee reiterated its adherence to the essence of the July 1990 agreement in its entirety and decided to reinstate the control mechanism stipulated therein, whereby the production and supply of oil by member countries will be monitored through two sub-committees as follows:

1. Algeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Socialist Peoples Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Nigeria and Venezuela,

2. Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

The sub-committees will continue to take into consideration all available information, namely, both from member countries and from outside sources, necessary for the monthly confirmation of strict adherence of member countries. The work of the sub-committees shall continue to be reported to the full Ministerial Monitoring Committee.

In order to facilitate the work of the sub-committees, each member country, as previously stipulated, shall within seven days send to the OPEC Secretariat the details of its production and supply of oil for the immediately preceding month.

Given the present fragile market situation and the need to accommodate the re-entry of Iraqi exports as well as the planned increases in Kuwait's production, without causing either market disruption or further weakness in oil prices, the committee decided to reconvene as soon as Iraq re-enters the market.

Recognizing that market stability is a joint responsibility of all oil producers, the Ministerial Monitoring Committee wishes to appeal to individual Independent Petroleum Exporting Countries (IPEC) to participate by each country reducing its current production level. The forthcoming IPEC/OPEC ministerial meeting on environment scheduled to be held in Vienna on 23rd April, 1992, will provide an opportunity to review the oil market. Thereafter, a meeting of the Ministerial Monitoring Committee will be convened in Vienna on 24th April, 1992.

The committee expressed its sincere appreciation to the Government of Switzerland and to the Republic and Canton of Geneva for their warm hospitality and the excellent arrangements made for the meeting.

Saudi Oil Minister Comments

LD1602222492 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Hisham Muhyi-al-Din Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, has stated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has done much to ensure the success of the OPEC conference and the achievement of positive results serving the interests of all members.

Speaking during a meeting with a number of journalists, the minister said that the Kingdom put forward at the start of the conference a number of ideas about the appropriate ceiling for production and the way production should be apportioned among the OPEC member countries.

The minister said that afterwards, the Kingdom announced its readiness to cut production by up to 500,000 barrels per day. He said that this cut represents at least one-third of the [total] cut needed to secure a market balance during the second quarter of this year.

Replying to a question about the Kingdom's stance toward the OPEC agreement, Minister Nazir said that the Kingdom supports the agreement in principle and hopes that all will abide by it. However, he said, the Kingdom has not agreed to limiting its production to 7.887 million barrels per day, as the statement [announcing the agreement] said. He added, however, that Saudi Arabia will abide by its promise to cut production by 500,000 barrels per day. He added that Saudi Arabia also desires a reasonable agreement acceptable to all members, that would define the level of the ceiling and its apportionment among all the member countries.

Asked about the statement broadcast by Tehran radio and attributed to the Iranian oil minister, which accused the Kingdom of obstructing OPEC's agreement on the level of the ceiling and production apportionment, Minister Nazir affirmed that it is illogical to accuse the kingdom of obstructing the conference.

Asked about the linking of each country's production to its production capacity, Minister Nazir said that what the kingdom is seeking is a reorganization of the way that production is apportioned among the member countries, so that the quota of each country will reflect its production capacity; thus no country is allotted a quota which it cannot produce, while countries with higher production capacities are given quotas proportionate to their capacities.

Asked for his views on the expected level of production following the agreement, Minister Nazir said he does not usually forecast future price levels. This is because prices are governed by variable factors which it is difficult to predict, he said. However, he expressed optimism about the future.

It will be recalled that the OPEC ministerial conference on the monitoring of the market concluded its meetings yesterday, Saturday evening, and issued a press statement immediately fixing the production ceiling at 22.982 million barrels per day.

In a statement he made today to SPA, Minister Nazir said that he has instructed the oil companies in the Kingdom to immediately cut their deliveries by 500,000 barrels per day. He said that this cut is in compliance with the promises made by the Kingdom under the OPEC agreement.

Aqazadeh on Saudi 'Failure To Agree'

LD1502112392 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Petroleum Minister Aqazadeh, who is participating in the Geneva OPEC meeting, discussed with the Central News Unit the results of the OPEC session, saying: Debate on the members' quota and the oil production reduction has continued since 12 February, the day the session began. In this regard, there are differences of opinion. Referring to the proposed oil production ceiling by the Islamic Republic of Iran, the petroleum minister added: All members have agreed to the ceiling of 2.5 million barrels per day and only with regards to the members' quota, considering the new production ceiling, Arabia is not ready to cut her production. Aqazadeh pointed out that the other 12 OPEC member states have agreed to cut their oil production, and Saudi Arabia's failure to agree has caused the session to face difficulty. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Boudiaf Discusses Security Situation With Media

LD1502212892 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, met with media officials on Saturday. Mr. Boudiaf, who considered it a preliminary get-acquainted meeting, focused on the media's role in helping to restore security to the country and in reassuring citizens. Mr. Boudiaf also believes that the higher interests of the homeland are above all other considerations. The meeting also dealt with the need for the state to restore its prestige and respect for the authority of the law and the need to complete the genuine democratic process. The youth and women's sectors were also discussed at the meeting.

Mr. Boudiaf will hold a news conference tomorrow for foreign journalists.

Outlines State Priorities

LD1602201192 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] The chairman of the Higher State Council has met with the foreign media and replied to journalists' questions. Mohamed Boudiaf dealt with the current social, economic, and political situation in Algeria. Ahmed Boubrif was present at the news conference and recorded the following report for us:

[Begin Boubrif recording] Before replying to questions from the foreign media, Higher State Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf made an introductory statement on the internal situation and Algeria's external relations. The statement included an appeal to foreign media to avoid reporting false information and to report statements and events truthfully, because biased interpretations prevailed overseas.

Mohamed Boudiaf addressed the journalists by saying: The situation was critical. You were waiting for a civil war. Thank God we avoided dire consequences. Algerians demonstrated their great maturity and were able to avoid those who were inciting disturbances.

Mohamed Boudiaf emphasized that the democratic process was irreversible and that what had taken place was a halting of the electoral process. World public opinion has to realize that it was necessary to halt the democratic process to save democracy. He pointed out that the transition to democracy was carried out hastily, without ensuring that those taking part in the democratic process would respect the rules of the game. Respect for democracy must not lead to the destruction of democracy, he said.

He also emphasized his meetings with the nation's key forces, including the National People's Army, veterans, trade unions, political parties, the judiciary, and the national media. He expressed his intention to continue these contacts.

After pointing out that he had studied the files concerning the country's problems, he emphasized that the time had come to move to another phase and to respond to our people's aspirations, because, he said: I have sensed, through recent events, the hunger for change and for justice.

As for future projects, he said that the government would submit a plan to promote the economy. It would be broadly based, primarily on the reestablishment of state authority, the restoration of civil peace, and the improvement of Algeria's foreign relations.

The economic plan also focuses on the entrenchment of the market economy which, he said, does not mean that the state will relinquish its responsibilities. The state will exercise its powers to prevent vulgar liberalism. It will safeguard social protection and regional balance and, obviously according to the Constitution, will retain strategic sectors.

Therefore, there are five priority points: purging public institutions; encouraging small- and medium-size businesses; attending to social requirements in the field of supplies, housing, and infrastructure; promoting rural development; and attracting foreign investment. This obviously goes along with the rejection of debt rescheduling. [end recording]

As we have seen, Higher State Council Chairman Mohamed Boudiaf answered various questions from journalists. We will carry some of those questions immediately after this news bulletin.

More on Press Briefing

LD1702135492 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1935 GMT 16 Feb 92

["Excerpts" of news conference by Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council, with foreign correspondents "today"; place not given—recorded; boldface passages in French]

[Text] [Berault] **Mr. President, this is Loic Berault for TF-1 [television]. Do you not fear that you are the historical and democratic guarantee for authorities that have so far appeared to be repressive?**

[Boudiaf] **I have been in Algeria for a month. You mentioned repression. I do not understand what you mean. I explained that the state of emergency was necessary due to events, that the democratic process remains intact, and that if there was any repression I would not see you here. I apologize for not answering this question because if there are measures to protect an individual's freedom, they are there in order to bring peace back to Algeria, and I apologize for not agreeing with this man who talks of repression.**

[Ayari] Farida Ayari from Radio France International. Mr. President, are you happy to lead a collegial leadership? In other words, do you feel that you have enough room to lead the policy you wish to lead?

[Boudiaf] Yes, I believe so. There is a collegial leadership. I have always been for a collegial administration ever since 1 November [1954, the beginning of the Algerian war of independence], for I believe that any individual process ends in dictatorship. I will always be for collegial leadership, be it at this level or at another, because collective thought is always better than individual thought. Now, as for the question: Have I enough elbow room? There is a commonality of thoughts of the whole of this small group that is working in the same direction and that aims at straightening out Algeria and at helping it to overcome this situation—which I would call difficult. I can ensure you that [word indistinct] in the Army as well as in society agree with this position.

[Marion] Mr. President, this is George Marion of LE MONDE. Yesterday when you received the national press you spoke of a national dialogue. Would this dialogue go as far as to talk with the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] or some of its leaders who are now prisoners?

[Boudiaf] If I speak of dialogue, I am against the question, because we speak a lot of dialogue [last word in Arabic: hiwar], of dialogue, and I do not know who we should talk to. We can talk; we can talk. We must talk with the people who define the problem of democracy in certain and clear terms and not with people who use machine guns and God. I think that if there is a dialogue with Algerian society, a large part of which consists of Algerian youth, it is to push this youth to organize itself around these difficulties to put forward plans, and I think that this is where the big dialogue is before [we talk] to the organizations. The organizations have a role to play, that is certain, but the dialogue that I call for with Algerians is this dialogue with the foundations of Algeria, the forgotten Algeria, the Algeria that is now outside events, this youth that sees no future for its situation. I think that the problem of dialogue exists with this category of Algerians, this category of our future which today is asking itself questions and which to a large degree voted for the FIS out of despair and for other reasons.

It is through these young people that we must find solutions, and the state, the existing authorities, are well disposed to listen to them, to talk with them. There has been a refusal [by the youth], and the important dialogue has come now. I think that this is the issue because when one looks at the parties, apart from those that got some votes, they do not constitute much, but one does nonetheless find [in these parties] this insensitivity [to youth]. I am speaking of a dialogue that can be extended to all organizations except for some who do not respect the law, because what happened in Algeria with the electoral process is that we realized that it was going to destroy democracy. It reminds me of a French fascist whose name I cannot remember who in 1930 said: Sirs, give me my rights. According to your principles you allow me to deprive you [of your rights] according to my principles. That is it. We have arrived at this situation. Allow us, through democracy, to come to power to deprive you of democracy. Algeria did not go along with this, and I am sure that Algerian wisdom, this people's wisdom, will manage to triumph.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, in the written version of your speech on 10 January, you had extremely harsh words for the mafia, the corruption, corrupt people who were ruling up to the highest levels of the state. Can you change things without changing the people? Does that mean that there will be a purge in Algeria?

[Boudiaf] I believe that if there is a message which was voiced during the last elections they are the following two things: first, the [need for] change; and second, one has to act against these people who monopolized the possessions of the state. I presented this problem to the Magistrates Council, saying the following: I give you this problem, I entrust you with this problem, and I ask you to consider it. This is a situation which is very sensitive for a great deal of people, and the authorities give assurances in a legal framework, because what must be avoided are settlings of accounts—there will be neither a settling of accounts nor legal discharge for those who monopolized goods. We will prosecute them and we will take all necessary measures to recover these goods for the benefit of the state. And this is one of my main goals, for everybody expects it. This question was asked by many people, journalists and others, and I know that if something brought grist to the mill of some extreme movements, this is this assessment that this power cannot really do something against [three words indistinct] to moralize. The present power is resolute to see this issue through and to confront it so as to answer the demands of all these people who expect a lot of help.

[Al-'Ubaydi] Shafiq al-'Ubaydi from INA: Mr. President, despite the passing of one whole month since you took over the leadership affairs of the state of Algeria, the official position regarding Iraq and the suffering of its people due to the embargo imposed on it has not yet been made clear. Can you give us an opinion on this?

[Boudiaf] In any case, this issue is a very difficult matter because if we are to talk about the case of Iraq we should talk about the war between Iraq and Iran, the occupation of Kuwait, and the Gulf war, etc. What I would like to say is that the Gulf war was not in the interest of the Arabs, not in the interest of the Arabs. It was neither in Iraq's interest nor in that of the others. Peace be upon you.

[Correspondent] Gilles [word indistinct] from LIBERATION. Mr. President, many young people believe in the FIS for rational and irrational reasons at the same time because it is against the (?former) single party, etc. How are you going to prove to them in the coming months or years that things are changing? What are you going to say to young people who live in their tens in single rooms, who

are unemployed and moneyless? There are, as you know, many who are entering the [labor] market and who will not find jobs in the years to come. How can one convince them that something is going to change?

[Boudiaf] This is why I talked about the issue of democratic groupings when addressing the young people. I know that these young people are expecting everything, but these young people [words indistinct] we have realized that many people were afraid and feared something before the recent events. However, as soon as calm returned, they thought as if democracy was already in place. I think that when nothing is ventured, nothing is gained. These young people must understand that we are listening to them. I am telling them that the day they will be able to organize themselves and to formulate their problems correctly... [changes thought] because it is impossible to solve all these problems with a magic wand.

The authorities can, however, make these young people feel confident and tell them that we are listening to them, that we will do everything to try to find solutions to their problems. Throughout the [economic] relaunch program, the idea prevails of taking immediate action, of tackling housing, unemployment, and training problems, which are youth problems. Young people are aware now or will be aware. We will go from there to help each other in finding solutions to their problems. These problems, I must admit, are huge, and the task will not be easy, but I appeal to the young people to be a little more patient, to know that the present authorities including myself are here to bring their contribution to a very difficult situation.

I am not expecting anything. I spent 30 years abroad, and I did not come back to seek material compensation or honors. My sole problem is to help the Algerians in their totality become aware and set out to work, because beside the blame put on the authorities for not doing anything, there are people who are not doing anything and who are waiting for things to be given to them. I am telling these young people that if they do not get down to work, if they do not face facts, they will get nothing from either the present authorities or with other ones. Therefore, the young people's problems boil down to their awareness of the difficulties. In this context, the current authorities are listening to all these people, who are ours, who are the big majority of Algerians and who constitute more than 60 percent of the people under 30. We are ready to listen to these people. All that I am asking for is that they be aware of their problems, that they get down to their work, and that they clearly formulate what they want. We are listening to them.

[Correspondent] [Name indistinct] from Italian state television, RAI. You have mentioned promises in connection with international financing which is needed to boost the economy. What do you think of the Italian Government's attitude in this connection vis-a-vis Algeria, and the attitudes of other European countries?

[Boudiaf] You did well by raising this problem. My answer is that we thank Italy through you as an Italian because it was among the very first European countries to understand the (?needs) of Algeria, and to take steps to this end. We thank them, and we assure them that everything we do with them will be in the interest of the others [as heard]. However, Algeria will not forget the gesture made by Italy in placing itself in the lead of Europe to come to Algeria's aid.

[Ficatti] Mr. President, Julia Ficatti of LA CROIX. Two questions. First, do you not think all the same that France requires a lot of persuasion to give you economic assistance?

[Boudiaf] Sorry, I do not understand your question.

[Ficatti] Do you not think that France is requiring a lot of persuasion to give you economic assistance so that you can better implement your relaunch program?

[Boudiaf] [Words indistinct] what about the second question?

[Ficatti] My second question is: There is talk about 10,000 arrests in recent days. I would like you to confirm or deny this figure. What is going to happen to the people arrested or detained for some time, the Islamic leaders in particular, and the young people, as it seems that three-quarters of those arrested are young people? What do you intend to do seeing as you made an appeal to the young people?

[Boudiaf] First, as regards the French, I said a while ago, and I am not going to repeat it, I think that there is a beginning of some (?communication). One has only got to follow the statements of some newspapers, Mr. Raymond Barre, Delors, and many French people who are able to appreciate the situation in Algeria, like Mr. Cheysson and others. We thank them for this. As for the persuasion, each one is free, and this is not the issue. The issue is that the French leaders realize the situation that Algeria is experiencing and our readiness to discuss the problems.

Second, as for the number [of detainess], I do not have the exact number, but I believe that the number you have given is more than the number of people arrested. What I would like to say is, while remaining a democrat and being against all this, I think that such measures are indispensable. There are no people dying, we are not hanging people, because if we have engaged in an election system [words indistinct]. Now, in order to maintain order and to try to bring Algeria back to a peaceful time, one or two months of detention will not do great harm. As for the number of young people, proportionally three-quarters of Algerians are young. However, I do not know whether or not these people have been arrested because they are young. People who cause public disorder will be safe despite everything. They will not be tortured and nothing of the kind will be done to them. The issue is to stabilize the situation, and there are a judiciary and laws according to which verdicts will be passed upon this or that. There are no arrests for no cause. There are people who have

attacked the police and the security forces, and there are people who killed others. We do not want a repeat of these acts in Algeria.

[Guignan] Mr. President, Pascal Guignan of French A2 TV. You are preparing an economic recovery program. It will cost a lot. The state's safes are empty. Where are you going to find the money? Have got the means to implement your policy? That is my first question. The second is: You say that Algerians could go back to work if they wanted to. Does this means that there is work when we know the rate of unemployment in Algeria? Does this mean that there are people who refuse to work although they could?

[Boudiaf] I am sorry to say that some journalists tackle the issues from the wrong end of the stick when they ask their questions. We say that the situation is difficult. There is a determination to revive the economy. We will do everything... there is a lot of aid, there are many people who promised to help. We think that if things do not work 100 percent, they will succeed at a slightly lesser rate. In addition, austerity measures have been taken at the level of the state and in all sectors. The bulk of this aid will be concentrated in job-creating sectors, in construction. The situation (?is here); one is brave if one faces up to it. The main thing is not to try to hide it, and this is the novelty in Algeria because I personally think there is a change of direction in Algeria, in the sense that we are in favor of transparency. We will respect with our means what we say. We cannot do more than we can afford. We don't lie, we don't try to fool the people. If tomorrow we say to them we have nothing, well at that moment we would embark on a war economy because the people would know that there is nothing. The important thing is to have the courage to face up to the situation, and if aid is available one should direct it to sectors in which it would bring remedies for the problems of Algeria. That is the reality.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. President, this a question from JANA: For some time now your sisterly country, Libya, has been the target of U.S.-Western threats. What is Algeria's position concerning these threats, especially as Article 14 of the Arab Maghreb Union's [AMU] constituent treaty stipulates that any act of aggression against a member of the Union is considered an act of aggression against the rest of the Union member states?

[Boudiaf] Anyhow, as for the sisterly state of Libya, we regret very much that the situation should have reached this level. Are you listening to me, brother? In any case, Algeria has a position on this issue, especially the current team in power. We are against terrorism from wherever it emanates. This is a basic and principled position. With regard to the issue of Libya, frankly we do not have... [changes thought] however, our position should be that of solidarity with Libya because it is a member of the AMU. Algeria should do its utmost to repel any threat of foreign intervention. Also, another unacceptable thing is to have a probable superpower state tread on a weak state. Therefore, Libya enjoys our solidarity within the framework of the law. This is Algeria's position on this issue.

Boudiaf Asks Iran Not To 'Intervene'

NC1502092592 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2158 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 14 Feb (MENA)—In an interview in the 15 February edition of the weekly AKHBAR AL-YAWM, Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Algerian Higher State Council [HSC], said that he returned to Algeria and accepted the HSC chairmanship in response to the call of national duty. He added that his task is demanding and difficult, and he emphasized his confidence in the Algerian people's ability to emerge from the crisis. Boudiaf also said that the Army took the actions it did to save Algeria from plunging into the abyss.

He said that nothing has been done to restrict the activities of political parties and said that they are present and active. All that is required of them, he said, is that they respect the rules of the democratic process. Political pluralism does not pose a danger to Algeria, he stated.

Boudiaf said that Algeria's problems are not religious in nature. He explained that Islam is not something new to Algeria. He emphasized that the authorities intend to restore matters to normal for the good of democracy. The HSC chairman urged the National Liberation Front [FLN] to draw up a sound political plan and to adopt a clear stand on current affairs.

Boudiaf urged Iran not to intervene in Algeria's internal affairs and said that he is placing himself at Algeria's service. His only ambition is to rally all Algerians around the goal of saving the country.

The task is difficult and demanding, he added, but he is certain that the Algerian people will find the strength and means to emerge victorious from this ordeal. Asked how he saw the country after his return from exile, Boudiaf said that Algeria, as is well known, suffered from negative economic growth, shrinking investments, and dwindling revenues. In the political sphere, he added, a tragic problem had developed between a leadership preoccupied with its own political games and the masses, who had lost trust as a result and who suffered a sense of loss and despair due to the consistent social deterioration.

The Army intervened only after the situation had deteriorated to such an extent that it was feared that Algeria would suffer a civil war and become an arena for foreign intervention. The Army, he said, acted to stop Algeria from plunging into the abyss.

Answering a question on whether there are any plans to reconsider the legal status of some political parties, the leader of the HSC said that nothing has been done to restrict the parties' activities. The parties, he said, in fact are present and are operating freely. The parties may one

day come back together, he added. He affirmed that political pluralism does not pose a danger to Algeria.

Chairman Boudiaf urged the political parties to respect the rules of the democratic process, to refrain from using physical or verbal violence, and not to exploit religion, national values, houses of worship, or public buildings.

He said that the Islamic Salvation Front's use of mosques might lead to other political parties demanding the use of religious pulpits. He added that Algeria's problems are not religious because Islam is not foreign to Algeria and religion for Algerians is a element of rapprochement, fraternity, and solidarity. It is totally unacceptable, he added, for religion to be transformed into barren slogans.

He emphasized that the authorities are determined to restore the situation to normal for the good of democracy and that he believes that if matters had not taken the course they did, the country would have plunged into the abyss.

Asked about the current FLN crisis, Boudiaf said that this party mobilized the Algerian people and liberated the country. It became, he added, unsuitable after having completed the mission for which it had been formed.

The HSC chairman urged FLN officials to save the front by drawing up a sound political plan and adopting a clear plan for the future. He explained that after it does this, the FLN will certainly be able to handle matters.

Boudiaf said the Army refuses to assume power, that it accepts the democratic process, and that it wants to operate within the law.

He was asked about how Algeria expects to emerge from the economic crisis. He responded by saying that Sid Ahmed Ghozali's government is trying to formulate a real salvation plan and to mobilize all concerned agencies. He said that in order for the plan to succeed, everyone will need to participate.

As for relations with Iran, Boudiaf said: We hope that this country understands that we do not intervene in its internal affairs because Algeria's foreign policy prohibits this. He asserted that any intervention in Algerian affairs will be firmly confronted.

FIS Cancels Algiers Demonstration

LD1402145792 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1400 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] has decided to cancel its demonstration. This instruction was given at the last minute in the most important mosques of Algiers. One must say that the route was under the tight control of the riot police.

The center of Algiers is being shaken by exchanges of gunfire, and tension is prevailing among Islamists, as well as among the armed forces.

Further Reportage on Security Situation

Security Forces Kill Five in Algiers Clash

LD1402214492 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] An authorized source stated this Friday afternoon that security enforcement units have discovered the bodies of five dead people under the ruins of a wall in the casbah quarter in the capital following an engagement between the security forces, supported by elements from the People's National Army, and armed persons who opened fire on these forces from the roof of one of this old quarter's buildings.

The source pointed out that while security forces and Army units were examining the identity cards of passers-by in accordance with information received within the context of the current investigation to find out the perpetrators of last Monday's attack which resulted in the killing of six security men in the quarter, these forces were exposed to automatic weapons fire on the night of Thursday-Friday from the roof of one of the buildings in the quarter. This fire wounded three of them.

After the attackers rejected the warning addressed to them by means of intermittent shots, fire was exchanged between the two sides which caused an explosion, followed by a fire and the collapse of the pillar of one of the walls in the place where the armed group was taking refuge. Following the removal of the ruins, the corpses of five people were discovered, but their identities have not been determined. Twenty other suspects in the place have been arrested, but an unspecified number of the aggressors managed to escape.

The source said that the arrested suspects have been interrogated on the basis of information received by the security services.

On the other hand, the same source stated that a group consisting of 50 people gathered after the Friday prayers in the town of (el-Khroub), Constantine Province, and shouted slogans against the security forces. In the wake of this gendarmerie forces intervened to set up roadblocks to prevent the advance of the march toward the town center. These events resulted in the wounding of a gendarme with a scythe by a person who left the gathering, and the immediate killing of the perpetrator by the gendarmes' fire.

Soldier Wounded at Martyrs Square

LD1402142892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Reliable sources have conirmed that the gunfire heard in Martyrs Square this morning resulted in the wounding of a member of the security forces. The security man was fired at by an unknown person who was on the roof of a building adjacent to Martyrs Square.

The sources added that security units were fired at by this unknown person as they were carrying out a search operation in the casbah. This operation started last night and continued until this morning, with the assistance of commando units of the National People's Army, in pursuit of those who carried out the attack on the dockyard near the admiralty. Calm was later observed to return to the area, where the security forces remained.

Algiers Police Station Attacked

LD1402144992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Reports reaching us say that cautious calm prevails in various regions after the Friday prayers. The same atmosphere prevails in the quarters of the capital, as little pedestrian and vehicle traffic was noticed. APS, citing eyewitnesses, noted that the Friday prayers at the el-Sunna Mosque in Bab el-Oued ended in total calm as worshipers dispersed and the security forces withdrew without recording any incident.

It was learned from trusted sources that the police station on Cherif Debbih Street, in the capital, came under attack by an armed group early this afternoon. The same source reports that the attack led to injuries among the security forces.

Arrests in Ain Defla, Mostaganem

LD1402234492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Calm returned to the town of Ain Defla this afternoon following disturbances in the town, near the el-Khadra Mosque, after the Friday prayers. There were no casualties. Meanwhile, the police arrested about 30 people.

Calm also returned to the border town of Maghnia following light clashes after the Friday prayers which left five people wounded by bullets.

The national gendarmerie command also pointed out that six automatic pistols were seized today in the Djezzar region, in Batna Province, by a team of the national gendarmerie from Merouana. The seizure was carried out following investigations in Ouled Selam which led to the detention of three people who had in their possession three automatic pistols.

The same source added that security forces started to detain [as heard] four people at Sougueur, in the western part of the country, where a gendarme was hit in the face by a Molotov cocktail. In Mostaganem, 44 people were arrested on the charge of disturbing public order, armed assembly, and obstructing traffic.

Algiers 'Calm' 15 Feb

LD1502211392 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Saturday saw complete calm in the streets of the capital after the foreign press had been expecting a bloody weekend. Here is a report from Menaa:

[Menaa] These are the most important streets of the capital at noon today. Life has returned to normal, as you can see. [video shows peaceful street scenes] It was a normal Saturday after a tense week and rumors circulated by the foreign press which said that Algeria was going to experience disturbances on Friday.

Friday passed peacefully, and there is calm in the neighborhoods and streets of the capital. Thick crowds of people move on foot and in their vehicles. National security service patrols have been moving in the streets and report nothing but calm.

Man Arrested After Firing at Troops

NC1602154092 Paris AFP in English 1525 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Algiers, Feb 16 (AFP)—A man on a motorcycle was arrested by the Army and police Sunday afternoon after shots were fired at soldiers guarding the Treasury building in central Algiers, witnesses told AFP.

They said the man, dressed in military fatigues, fired at the soldiers from a construction site across the street from the Treasury building.

He then raced his motorcycle around the building and on to the esplanade of a bus terminal in the rear, where he crashed and was arrested, the witnesses said.

The witnesses, who said they heard several bursts of automatic weapon fire, could not say whether the shooter acted alone.

There was no immediate word on casualties among the soldiers fired upon.

The Treasury building was surrounded by troops, weapons at the ready, and the square and bus terminal in the rear were sealed off.

Government offices, major crossroads and mosques have been guarded by troops, backed up by armoured cars in some cases, since the resignation of President Chadli Bendjedid on January 11 and the explosion of conflict between Islamic fundamentalists and Algeria's new military-backed government.

In a separate incident Sunday, two gendarmes were wounded in the Baraki suburb of southeast Algiers when three gunmen fired on their vehicle with automatic pistols, the official APS agency reported.

One of the assailants was identified, but none was immediately apprehended, APS said.

Arrests in Boufarik, Tebessa

LD1602232192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] According to an APS dispatch, it has been learned from authorized sources that 65 people who were involved in the disturbances witnessed in Boufarik, in Blida Province, have been arrested. The sources said that 27 people were put under preventive detention while the remainder were temporarily released.

The chairman of the Municipal People's Council in Souma has been detained and put under preventive detention after having been referred to justice on the charge of armed assembly.

On 12 February, national gendarmerie services found 10 firebombs and 33 cartridges in the possession of the chairman of the Municipal People's Council in Ain Cheurfa, in Ain Defla Province. Investigations into the case have begun.

The source added that the archinstigator of the Ain Beida incident, (Bouldjemaa), has been arrested and put under preventive detention.

In Tebessa, six others have been arrested and put under preventive detention after they had been referred to justice on the charge of disturbing public order and destroying property belonging to others.

Citing authorized sources, APS reported that a car belonging to the lawyer who was kidnapped on 12 February near Hammam Melouane was found today in the town of Blida. The sources said that investigations are continuing to find the lawyer. As a reminder, the lawyer lives in the capital. He was with his wife when they were attacked by three armed people. They robbed the wife of her jewellery and left her, while they took her husband with them in his car.

Egypt

Al-Bishari Arrives in Cairo To Discuss 'Crisis'

NC1602190192 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Ibrahim al-Bishari, secretary of the Libyan General People's Committee for External Liaison and International Cooperation, arrived in Cairo today on a one-day visit to Egypt. Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first undersecretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, met al-Bishari at the airport.

Dr. al-Baz said that the Libyan secretary will hold talks with Minister Musa on the latest developments in the Libyan-U.S. crisis. Dr. al-Baz added that Egypt's position on that crisis is unchanged. Egypt, he noted, is working quietly to settle the crisis.

Meets Musa, Discusses Ties

NC1602193192 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1912 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 16 Feb (MENA)—This evening, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received Libyan External Liaison Secretary Ibrahim al-Bishari, who is visiting Egypt.

The two officials reviewed bilateral relations and ways to consolidate them in the various fields. They also discussed important Arab and international issues of mutual concern.

Protest Filed With Israel Over 'Espionage'

JN1502063292 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0510 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Dispatch from Mustafa Bakri in Cairo]

[Text] Cairo has filed an official protest with the Israeli Government over the acts of espionage carried out on its soil by elements affiliated with the Mosad. In a letter to Tel Aviv, Cairo stated that this action reveals Israel's hostile designs against Egypt's security, and that this affair jeopardizes relations between the two countries.

Meanwhile, Egyptian authorities have adopted stringent security measures along the country's borders, particularly after obtaining information that several espionage networks are working for the Mosad and spreading AIDS in the country.

Sources have pointed out that following last week's announcement of the arrest of the Israeli espionage network, the number of Jews arriving in Egypt from Israel has dropped sharply.

Egyptian state prosecution authorities have ordered Israeli spy David Ovitz detained for interrogation for 15 days, after he admitted supplying the espionage network with important and dangerous information jeopardizing Egyptian security, information he obtained from several businessmen and public figures in Egypt.

Egyptian authorities are still shrouding with secrecy the arrest of scores of Egyptians who will undergo medical tests to ascertain whether they carry the AIDS virus, after Israeli spy Fayiqah Misrati admitted she had had relations with these people.

Newspapers Condemn Israeli Attack in Lebanon

NC1802095092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Cairo, 18 Feb (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH have denounced barbaric Israeli practices, the latest of which was the raid on south Lebanon.

AL-AKHBAR says in today's editorial that the Israeli raid on south Lebanon was a unilateral massacre perpetrated by Israel's leaders—who specialize in killing unarmed civilians—to avenge the death of three Israeli

soldiers at the hands of an armed group of fedayeen. It says this constant Israeli policy, based on terrorism and aggression against a peaceful people, is aimed at sowing terror in the hearts of children, women, and old people.

The paper adds: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and his fellow former leaders of terrorist gangs had not forgotten their bloody nature and past when they killed the entire population of some Palestinian villages to force other villagers to flee, leaving their houses and lands behind, as was the case in Dayr Yasin, Khan Yunis, and elsewhere.

AL-AKHBAR goes on to say that Israel's leaders want the Arabs to know that dozens will be killed in revenge for every Israeli soldier who is killed, which is the Mafia's policy. The paper concludes that Israel's terrorist actions have become more violent and arrogant since the beginning of the peace talks, from which Israel is trying to escape. It adds that this policy might succeed for a while, but will backfire in the end.

In its editorial, AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Israel's escalation of repression and violence is raising a dust storm around the peace talks, at a time when everyone is stressing their desire to ensure the success of the peace process. It adds that those raising the dust storm will bear responsibility, if not today then tomorrow.

Writer Mustafa Amin says that Israel was the first to introduce the policy of assassination to the Arab region, when it assassinated the international mediator Count Bernadotte.

Writing in his daily "Idea" column in AL-AKHBAR, the writer says: The bloodbath in the region will not stop until Israel halts its policy of revenge. Israeli planes assassinated Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, the Hizballah leader, in Lebanon in a preplanned and premeditated assassination based on information Israel had received on his movements. How else could Israeli pilots have known which car in the motorcade carried Shaykh al-Musawi, his wife, and his six-year-old son?

Mustafa Amin then says: Hizballah will not remain silent over this massacre, and will retaliate with another massacre. Israel will then retaliate with a second blow and the bloodbath will never end. He concludes by noting that the killing of Shaykh al-Musawi will not frighten Hizballah or its supporters, but will only strengthen their determination to continue the war of assassination. The blame lies with the one who initiated this.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi, 'Arafat Discuss Developments

LD1502190292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Brother president Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] held a meeting in Tripoli last night with his brother, Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

During the meeting they discussed the latest developments on the Arab and international scenes, developments in the Palestinian question, and our people's blessed intifadah in the occupied territories.

Abu-'Ammar thanked the brother colonel for Libyan support for their brothers in the occupied homeland. They also examined threats against the Great Jamahiriyah and the brotherly Libyan people.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets Azerbaijani, Kazakh Ministers

LD1502171192 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Feb (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution met Azerbaijani Finance Minister Badir Dzhamil Ogly Karayev and Kazakh Finance Minister Abdikadirov Tuleubek.

Official Welcomes 'Positive' Security Council Move

LD1502184292 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Tripoli, 15 Feb (JANA)—The brother secretary of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation People's Committee has stated: We welcome the news that the UN Security Council, at an unofficial consultation session, has charged the UN secretary general with the task of mediating in the implementation of Resolution 731, and we consider this a positive move. The Great Jamahiriyah has previously declared its readiness to cooperate positively and effectively with the secretary general to accomplish his mission.

Sudan

Students Boycott Exams; Police Make Arrests

JN1502185892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Huda al-Husayni report from London]

[Text] According to Sudanese sources in London today, Khartoum University students have failed to turn up for examinations after university president Professor Ma'mun Humaydah rejected a note they submitted. He decided that the examinations should take place on schedule. However, to split the ranks of the student body, the university set a precedent by deciding to hold the tests outside the university at the police faculty, the Islamic African Center, and the Constitutional Society Building. The university president called in six hundred policemen to stand guard while the examinations were being taken. Last night Omdurman radio broadcast the names of the students who were asked to go to designated halls to take their examinations this morning, but none turned up.

At the faculty of arts the rate of absenteeism was as high as 90 percent, which led to a cancellation of the examinations, with professors citing the lack of the required legal quorum.

According to the latest reports from Khartoum, police have stormed university dormitories, carried out a search, and made arrests.

Meanwhile, student affairs continue after the Sudanese president named the members of the new National Council, which appears to be dominated by the Islamic Front, followed by the old Socialist Union. With the exception of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, virtually all the top echelons of the Front have now come to the fore. The other parties have refused to join the council.

As for the new cabinet shake-up, there is nothing out of the ordinary about it except for objections to the justice minister, who has been replaced.

Al-Bashir Receives Iraqi Labor Minister

EA1702191092 Omdurman National Unity Radio in English 1500 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Co.nmand Council] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir yesterday received at the Republican Palace the visiting Iraqi labor and social affairs minister and director general of the Arab Labor Organization, Bakri Muhammad Rasul. Present at the meeting was the labor minister, George Kinga [Logokwa].

In a press statement following the encounter, Rasul hailed Sudan's firm stances in support of the Arab question, pointing to the ample manpower and potentialities in the Sudan. He explained that he and Lt. Gen. al-Bashir reviewed the recent political developments in the Arab world and the appropriate means for boosting Arab unity and confronting the plots aimed at splitting the Arab ranks.

Saudi Arabia

'Official Source' Denies Arrests, Dissent

LD1402200492 Riyadh SPA in English 2015 GMT 13 Feb 92

[Text] Riyadh, Feb 13, SPA—An official source told SPA on Thursday that some hired newspapers continue to publish fabricated reports on the existence of detention and differences of opinion inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, despite the Kingdom's categorical denial of all these false reports, a few days ago.

'We do not need to confirm that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia enjoys comprehensive security, complete stability and closeness between its leadership and the Saudi people, thanks to Allah, because people near or far know these facts,' the source said.

'There are neither detentions in the Kingdom nor differences between officials or religious leaders, ulemas and students,' he added. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its regime, which have been based on the book of Allah and the tradition of the Prophet ever since its establishment, will proudly resume its message, to spread the true Islamic call, bolster all that serves Islam and Muslims and support the causes of the Arab and Islamic nations all over the world, thereby disregarding malicious schemes, conspiracies and the media campaigns, whose sources and goals are known.

As we reveal to readers these malicious parties, we reiterate the call for the mass media which respect readers and listeners and seek the truth in their publications and broadcasts to rise above involvement in publishing reports insinuated by malicious parties that exist only in the sick imagination of its sources.

Three Soldiers Killed in 14 Feb Attack

TA1502141792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Text] Three soldiers were murdered and one sustained moderate injuries in a terrorist attack in central Israel last night. The terrorists, armed with axes, a knife, and a pitchfork, penetrated an Army bivouac which housed reservists—mostly newly arrived immigrants—who were in training for reserves service. They killed two immigrant soldiers and a conscript. The fatalities are Gay Friedman, 20, from Zikhron Ya'aqov, and Ya'aqov Dubinsky, 30, an immigrant from Karmi'el. The name of the third fatality, also an immigrant, has not been released. All the families have been notified.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces], the Border Police, and Israel Police have launched searches. The chief of staff has appointed Major General Nehemya Tamari to investigate the circumstances of the attack. He promised that the IDF will do everything necessary in the wake of the killings.

Arens: Fatah-'Arafat Thought Responsible

TA1502172292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1620 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Telephone interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Gay Zohar—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Shalom, Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

[Arens] Good evening.

[Zohar] Would you say today's incident was extraordinarily cruel?

[Arens] It was a singularly cruel event, and we will have to draw the appropriate conclusions.

[Zohar] Are the circumstances known? Do we know how three terrorists armed with only cold-steel weapons could infiltrate into an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] bivouac?

[Arens] I prefer not to elaborate on the circumstances of the event right now. The chief of staff has appointed Major General Tamari to investigate every aspect of the incident. What we do know, of course, is that the reservists were newly arrived immigrants who had not yet completed basic training.

[Zohar] What was the terrorists' objective? Since they took weapons, was that their aim?

[Arens] I have no doubt that this was not their goal; they came to perpetrate an act of terror, a murder. In recent months, we have been witnessing attempts by various terrorist organizations, including Fatah-'Arafat, to step up terrorist activities in parallel with the peace process. In this case, the perpetrators were apparently a group affiliated with Fatah-'Arafat. These organizations, such as Fatah-'Arafat, and 'Arafat himself, who pretend to support the peace process, would really like to torpedo it. They think the process should be accompanied, so to speak, by terrorism. Today's event was probably one of their attempts.

[Zohar] Do you share the theory that the terrorists came from the territories but were assisted by Israeli Arabs living in the area of the incident?

[Arens] I do not want to speculate at the moment, and certainly not in the direction you have indicated. At this point, we have no indication of any assistance by Israeli citizens, and I hope we will find out that nothing like this has taken place.

[Zohar] Would you say the intifadah has poured over the Green Line?

[Arens] I do not think terrorists from the various organizations connected with the PLO really distinguish between the two sides of the Green Line. They aim to carry out terrorist acts, to murder Jews.

[Zohar] What can you tell all the thousands of Israelis who heard of this murderous attack just as they were themselves picnicking in that area? Will the Army draw any conclusions?

[Arens] No conclusions, not yet. The IDF is alert; it is guarding the country and its inhabitants, and the police are taking the appropriate action. There is no need to worry.

[Zohar] Perhaps at this stage, when the peace process seems to be held concurrently with the attempts you have mentioned to disrupt the talks, the troops should be beefed up, both in the territories and inside the Green Line.

[Arens] The troops have been beefed up, and it was not done yesterday. Whatever needs to be done has been done.

[Zohar] We have already heard reactions—some from political bodies—saying that perhaps the Army is not doing enough to eradicate terrorism and that more massive deployment is not sufficient.

[Arens] The IDF is doing its best; it is doing whatever needs to be done. The war against terrorism did not start yesterday or a year ago. It is a protracted campaign we have waged and know how to wage; we will win this battle.

[Zohar] Thank you, Defense Minister Moshe Arens.

Sees Link to 'Headquarters' in Jordan

TA1602064292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says all indications are that the gang which killed the three soldiers are from Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah organization. Talking to reporter Alan Ben-'Ami, the defense minister said that

orders for terrorist activities are coming from command centers in Jordan. Our reporter asked Arens if he felt more could be done to stop the rise in acts of terror.

[Begin recording] [Arens] Well, you are quite right. We know that the different PLO terrorist organizations are attempting to increase terrorist activity in parallel with the peace process, some because they want to derail the process, and others—like 'Arafat—who feel they would like to accompany, in quotation marks, the process with these kind of killings; and we will do what whatever is necessary in order to face that kind of problem. [passage omitted]

[Ben-'Ami] As you mentioned, both Palestinian groups opposing the peace process and those like 'Arafat going along with the peace process....

[Arens, interrupting] Who pretend they go along with it, yes.

[Ben-'Ami] They have been carrying out various actions. To what extent is this going to affect Israel's attitude, Israel's positions, in that peace process?

[Arens] That is something that I am sure will be discussed. The headquarters for these terrorist organizations that are carrying out this activity are in Jordan. And so we are sitting across the table from Jordan, where they permit terrorist headquarters to operate; and we are sitting across the table from the Palestinians in the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation who don't seem to want hide the fact that they have some connection with 'Arafat.

[Ben-'Ami] Have you any indications that would put the latest gang involved in these killings in some sort of direct contact with Jordan in any way?

[Arens] We know that the instructions for the terrorist activity in the territories comes from the headquarters in Jordan.

[Ben-'Ami] And have you made any contacts, have any messages been passed to Jordan, in the wake of this attack?

[Arens] I think the Jordanians are quite clear about our opinion on the subject.

Levi Reacts to Killing

TA1602060892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi called on Palestinian leaders in the territories to denounce unequivocally the terrorists' murderous attack. It is inconceivable, Levi said, for our partners in the peace talks to continue to talk with us while simultaneously welcoming such a dastardly crime. Minister Levi was in Tiberias last night, and our correspondent Hayim Hecht talked with him:

[Hecht] Minister David Levi asked how it is possible that such bastards carried out a murderous attack inside a military camp. I am waiting for the results of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] investigation, he said, but many tough questions are being asked about whether something is wrong with our security. He noted the barren efforts of Israeli reporters to extricate even a minimal denunciation of the murder from Palestinian leaders in the territories.

[Begin recording] [Levi] Our partners, the representatives of the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, believe that they can enjoy the benefits of both worlds: on the one hand, to be partners in peace talks; and on the other, to welcome or encourage or ignore such actions. It is their duty to denounce them.

[Hecht] Will you demand such a denunciation from the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks?

[Levi] Leave that to the political echelon. On the other hand, I do not want to condone reactions that would mean success for those who perpetrated this crime for the purpose of cutting down the peace process. [end recording]

The minister stressed that the peace process will not tie the hands of the security forces in their resolute war against the perpetrators of terrorism.

'Black Panthers' Claim Responsibility

TA1602104892 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 16 Feb 92 pp 1, 2

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] The "Black Panthers" have taken responsibility for the action at the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] base in Ramot Menashe. Al-Quds Radio, which belongs to Ahmad Jibril and broadcasts from Damascus, said that an announcement from Janin indicates that the action was carried out by a squad belonging to a group called "Ma'adi Abu-al-Hasan." Abu-al-Hasan was wanted in the Janin region and was killed about two weeks ago by IDF soldiers. [passage omitted]

Shamir's Media Adviser, Others React

TA1502203292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Excerpts] In its weekly meeting tomorrow, the cabinet will be briefed on the terrorist attack in which three soldiers were murdered. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that several ministers have already announced that they will demand that conclusions from the attack be drawn expeditiously.

The prime minister's media adviser has stated that we have witnessed another murderous crime committed by terrorists, who have exhibited boundless barbarism in the face of the whole world. The prime minister's adviser further stated that Israel will pursue the war against terrorism and against those who are out to harm Israelis and the chance for peace in the region.

Knesset Speaker Dov Shilansky, who has expressed outrage and sorrow at the soldiers' deaths, calls on the Israeli Government to reconsider the wisdom of sitting together with people claiming to represent terrorist organizations. Knesset Member [MK] Sara Doron, the Likud faction chairperson, requests that the cabinet make a statement about the abominable murder at the opening of the Knesset debates this week.

Labor Chairman MK Shim'on Peres says that radical Arabs are trying to sabotage every attempt at Arab-Israeli coexistence. MK Yitzhaq Rabin says that appropriate conclusions should be drawn from this serious event.

Likud MK Yehoshu'a Sagi says that even after four years of intifadah, nothing has been done to restore law and order and that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has not been given the tools to do it. [passage omitted]

Tehiya MK Ge'ula Kohen calls on the government to stop the peace talks, while MK Elyaqim Ha'etzni urges the government to deport Faysal al-Husayni and Hanan 'Ashrawi, who have in fact condoned the murder of the soldiers.

MK Tamar Gozansky from HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality] says that such calamities can be prevented by the removal of problems obstructing the peace process and by a freeze on settlements. [passage omitted]

The Peace Now movement condemns the abhorrent killings. The movement urges the Israeli and Palestinian leaderships to promote peace and not to flinch from the radical elements.

The Da movement—a new party of Russian immigrants—expresses profound sorrow at the death of the three soldiers, two of whom were immigrants from the USSR. A spokesman for the movement said that from the start, no terrorist attack has ever stopped immigration from the USSR. [passage omitted]

Additional Reaction Reported

TA1502150092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1415 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Report by Knesset affairs correspondent Dov Gilhar]

[Text] The Knesset will hold an urgent debate on the incident in which three IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers were killed. Already this week Knesset Member [MK] Tzahi Hanegbi from the Likud will submit a bill allowing the death sentence to be meted out to terrorist killers whose deeds were perpetrated without firearms. Hanegbi has appealed to all the cabinet ministers, urging their support. It will be remembered that a few months ago, the defense minister brought a similar bill before the cabinet, but it was held up in the Ministerial Committee on Legislation and Law Enforcement.

MK Rehav'am Ze'evi from Moledet says that months ago, he alerted the cabinet to an infiltration method into towns and IDF camps. Ze'evi says he wrote to the defense minister about the issue last week, but his warnings fell on deaf ears. The government should awaken from its 50-month slumber—the duration of the intifadah—says Ze'evi.

The left-wing parties—CRM [Citizens Rights Movement], MAPAM [United Workers Party], and Shinuy—express outrage and horror at the murder of the three soldiers. The three parties assert that the cruelty of these horrible killings is designed to cause despair in those who hope for peace, but say that even these deeds will not cause them to despair, because despair can only mean an imminent, terrible war.

MK Hayim Ramon, Labor Knesset faction chairman, sends condolences to the families of the soldiers killed in the attack. The IDF and the security forces should do everything they can to capture the perpetrators, he says. There is no doubt that the terrorist act was designed to deepen hatred and to kill any chance for coexistence with our Arab neighbors.

Palestinians Link Killings, IDF Policy

TA1502184192 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1710 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Report by correspondent in the territories Udi Segal]

[Text] Palestinian notables in the territories do not condemn the terrorist deed perpetrated last night. Repeating again and again that they are against every act of violence, they stress the link between this kind of terrorism and the occupation and the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] policy in the territories.

Faysal al-Husayni, head of the Palestinian delegation, says he is against any killing but that last night's attack harms the chances to attain peace in the same way IDF attacks on Lebanese bases have.

[Begin al-Husayni recording] We would like peace to come; we would like there to be no attacks against either Israelis or Arabs. If we are on the issue of peace, however, we would like you to pose this question to Israel: Do they think the attacks on Lebanese or Palestinian bases do not harm peace? Why do they think this attack on an Army base does harm peace? Peace cannot come from one side only. [end recording]

In this atmosphere, in this unhealthy situation, says delegation spokesperson Hanan 'Ashrawi, an attack is but a symptom of a problem. I condemn every act of violence, says 'Ashrawi, but we should at the same time discuss ways of eliminating the causes of such incidents.

[Begin 'Ashrawi recording, in English] Every incident of violence merely underlines the urgent need and the absolute necessity of coming to a genuine peace process and a settlement that would tackle the underlying causes of conflict and violence. [end recording]

Hizballah's al-Musawi Killed in Air Force Raid

TA1602191892 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1854 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Report by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe—live]

[Text] Here is an announcement by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman: This afternoon, the Israel Air Force attacked a convoy of vehicles suspected of belonging to Hizballah as it was traveling from Jibshit to Sidon in south Lebanon. It turned out that riding in the convoy were senior Hizballah commanders, including secretary general 'Abbas al-Musawi, who was killed in the raid. All our planes returned safely to their base.

The Hizballah leaders whose convoy was attacked were on their way back from a meeting in Jibshit, which was attended by senior activists responsible for the terrorist attacks perpetrated by the organization. 'Abbas al-Musawi was one the founders of Hizballah and one of its prominent leaders since its establishment in 1982. Among other jobs, he has been Hizballah's officer in charge of south Lebanon and head of the branch in charge of attacks against Israel. He was appointed to his current position as secretary general of the organization in May 1991. In his various capacities, al-Musawi was directly responsible for all of Hizballah's terror attacks perpetrated against Israel in the security zone since the end of 1985. He was also involved in Hizballah attacks against U.S. and Western targets.

The Iranian-sponsored Hizballah has in the past year become the leading terror organization staging terror attacks from south Lebanon against the IDF and the South Lebanese Army in the security zone and against Israel's northern settlements. Under aliases such as Islamic Jihad, Revolutionary Justice Organization, and Islamic Opposition, Hizballah has in the last few years staged a series of spectacular terrorist attacks against Israeli and U.S. targets and against the multinational force in Lebanon.

This afternoon, the Israel Air Force attacked a convoy of vehicles suspected of belonging as it was traveling from Jibshit to Sidon in south Lebanon. Riding in the convoy were senior Hizballah commanders, including secretary general 'Abbas al- Musawi, who was killed in the raid. Thus ends the IDF spokesman's announcement.

Arens Sees 'Message'

TA1602194292 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1903 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by moderator Ya'aqov Ahime'ir and military correspondent Moti 'Eden—live]

[Text] [Ahime'ir] Could you confirm the reports that 'Abbas al-Musawi was killed in the helicopter raid conducted by the Air Force? Could you elaborate on the raid?

[Arens] According to the information in our possession, Hizballah leader 'Abbas al-Musawi was definitely killed. Hizballah is a murderous organization which bears responsibility for the killing of several Israeli soldiers, the kidnapping of the late Israeli soldiers Rahamim Alshekh and Yosef Fink, and for terrorist attacks against U.S. troops in Beirut. Hizballah's spiritual leader al-Musawi—if one can call such people spiritual leaders—is also responsible for these attacks. His hands are tainted with a lot of blood.

[Ahime'ir] Mr. Arens, could you confirm that this was a planned raid designed at hitting 'Abbas al-Musawi?

[Arens] The attack was designed to hit Hizballah. Presumably, the fact that he was killed was not entirely coincidental.

['Eden] How do you think al-Musawi's death will affect Hizballah in the near future?

[Arens] I think it will seriously affect the organization. This is a message to all the terrorist organizations that we will settle the score with all those who have an outstanding debt with us. This applies to all gangs and terror organizations and their leaders.

[Ahime'ir] Sir, what is expected to happen in the north now?

[Arens] We are constantly dealing with terrorist activities, both by Hizballah and Palestinian organizations, in the north. This struggle will presumably continue.

['Eden] Mr. Arens, how will al-Musawi's death affect the ongoing efforts to ascertain the whereabouts of the remaining hostages?

[Arens] I do not think it will have any effect whatsoever. We know from experience that terrorist organizations such as Hizballah understand only one language, and that is the language of force.

[Ahime'ir] A last question, sir. From the security point of view, is Israel prepared for possible developments on our northern border as a result of al-Musawi's killing?

[Arens] We are always prepared. The Israeli Army is always on the alert. The Army conducted the operation today in the best possible manner.

[Ahime'ir] Thank you very much, sir.

Shamir on al-Musawi's Death

TA1702185692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir says nothing will prevent Israel from building throughout the length and breadth of the Land of Israel. Shamir was speaking in Tel Aviv. Reporter Le'a Zinder was there:

Prime Minister Shamir, who finished speaking just a short time ago, said here tonight: No one will prevent us

from building throughout the length and breadth of the Land of Israel. Our Arab neighbors must reconcile themselves to this fact, he said. It is unimaginable that there should be any part of this land that will be judenrein, free of Jews. We will build day by day, and our neighbors must accept it, said Mr. Shamir, as we accept the fact that our neighbors live and build throughout the Land of Israel and it doesn't bother us. Only in this way will peace come. We will put an end to terror, said Shamir, and we will build a house of peace.

In a brief interview afterwards, the prime minister was asked about yesterday's killing of Hizballah chief Shaykh al-Musawi. Shamir said this was part of the ongoing struggle against Arab terror. Shamir said we regret the death of Shaykh al-Musawi's wife and son in the attack but, he said, these things can happen.

Asked if there was a connection between al-Musawi's death and the murder of the three Israeli soldiers on Friday night, Shamir said it's all part of the same struggle.

The prime minister said this morning's katyusha rocket attack on Israel's northern border was not unexpected. On the danger that Hizballah may step up its attacks on Israeli and Western targets, Shamir said they don't need an excuse to kill us; they do it every day.

Levi: Raid Not To Affect Peace Process

TA1702171092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Al-Musawi's elimination will not disturb the peace process, believes Foreign Minister David Levi, who was guest of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Levi believes that in the upcoming Washington talks, which start on 24 February, a new location will be chosen. Our Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar reports:

The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today could not avoid dealing with the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] action in Lebanon and the killing of al-Musawi, although its guest was the foreign minister and not the defense minister. Chairman Eliyahu Ben-Elisar denounced the statement by the White House spokesman and welcomed the action. Ben-Elisar expressed surprise that the United States denounced the elimination of the person responsible for terrorist actions against its own citizens. Knesset Member Arye Eli'av retorted: Let us at least express sorrow at the death of the child and the woman. David Levi responded: I certainly agree, but I suggest that we also express sorrow at the deaths of soldiers and civilians due to al-Musawi. The foreign minister was asked by MK Ra'anan Kohen whether there is not a danger that al-Musawi's elimination will hold up the peace talks.

[Begin Levi recording] I do not think there is a link between the two. It is ridiculous to tie the peace process with Hizballah activity since Hizballah views the peace process as the enemy of the Arab or Islamic people and fights against the process. That is why we are fighting against it. For Hizballah, the war against us and the war against the peace process is identical. [end recording]

The talks themselves will resume in Washington on 24 February for the last time, Levi said, since it will be decided there to which location to transfer them. Levi believes that Secretary of State James Baker will dictate to the sides a new site closer to the Middle East.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 17 February adds: "Foreign Minister David Levi today told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that when the Washington talks resume Israel will raise the question of Syria's sponsorship of the terrorists. Minister Levi sharply criticized the Lebanese foreign minister, who gave license to Hizballah to operate in south Lebanon. Israel regards the government in Lebanon as an element encouraging the terrorist organizations, Levi said."]

On the loan guarantees, the foreign minister said that there are very sensitive talks and examinations currently in progress on the issue and we must hope that they will end soon in agreement. Levi told the committee that former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will visit Israel this year as the guest of the Technion Institute of Technology.

Baraq: 'Heavy Price' if Attacks Continue

TA1702162292 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 feb 92

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, by 'Ido Baum and Menahem Horowitz, "during a tour of the north" on 17 February—recorded]

[Text] [Horowitz] Gen. Baraq, were we surprised by Hizballah's katyusha attack on the Galilee this morning?

[Baraq] We took that possibility into account following the very grave attack Hizballah suffered in the latest operation. They tried to respond quickly in any way they could, including katyushas. That possibility was taken into account.

[Horowitz] There have been no katyusha attacks on the Galilee and the northern settlements for a long time. Are we surprised by the intensity?

[Baraq] There has not been such a harsh attack on Hizballah and its leaders for a long time. The response was several dozen katyushas, so far without causing casualties. We will do everything possible to safeguard the settlements. The population here has passed very hard tests and is known for its restraint and stamina. Everything will be done to look after them.

[Baum] Hizballah threatens further attacks. Is the IDF [Israel Defense Force] beefing up its forces?

[Baraq] I do not believe that we should detail our plans on the radio. We are prepared for defensive and offensive actions. We view the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese Army as responsible for maintaining total quiet on its side, and if there is no quiet, then those who disturb the peace will have to pay a very high price.

[Horowitz] Gen. Baraq, why did the Air Force attack and kill Shaykh al-Musawi at this particular time?

[Baraq] We are conducting an ongoing struggle against Hizballah—against the perpetrators of attacks against us and against those who send them. 'Abbas al-Musawi was one of the perpetrators in the past and then one of those who sent others. He was hit yesterday because yesterday we got him.

[Horowitz] In other words, there were previous attempts to hit him?

[Baraq] I would not like to go into that. I welcome the fact that he was hit yesterday.

[Baum] Is there any link between the murderous attack in the Menashe plateau and the Air Force helicopter attack on the Hizballah motorcade?

[Baraq] There is no connection.

[Horowitz] In your view, the attack on al-Musawi, beyond the damage to Hizballah's morale—will it damage their terrorist activity in the future?

[Baraq] In the short run it could even lead to a certain increase, but in the long run, the attack on their leaders will, in our view, have a positive influence.

[Horowitz] In your view, are Hizballah leaders now more afraid than in the past? Is there a chance that we will soon hear about a new leader perhaps more hostile to Israel?

[Baraq] Think for yourself.

[Baum] To conclude, Gen. Baraq, the rockets launched this morning at the Galilee panhandle were 122 mm with a range of over 20 km. Does the IDF have answers for rockets with such a long range?

[Baraq] I would not like to go into details about our responses. I said before that we regard the Lebanese Government and the Lebanese Army as responsible for stopping that; if it does not stop, then there will be a heavy price paid by the other side.

[Baum] We heard that the Lebanese Army fired in the direction of SLA [South Lebanese Army] positions inside the security zone, which is quite rare in this region.

[Baraq] It is possible that it was shelling at the northern edges of the security zone, and we also expect that to stop.

[Horowitz] Gen. Baraq, are there reports about navigator Ron Arad? Is there concern in the wake of the massive action against the Hizballah leader?

[Baraq] I am not sure that he is being held by Hizballah, and I do not believe that the very successful action carried out against 'Abbas al-Musawi should influence Ron Arad's fate.

[Horowitz] Have reports on Arad's fate arrived lately?

[Baraq] I cannot report anything new, and I think we should show restraint in our expectation about information in order to increase the chance that treatment of Arad and the other POW's and MIA's will be effective.

Additional Comment

TA1702072392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, says that yesterday's Air Force operation is part of an ongoing, large-scale campaign against Hizballah activists and Palestinian terrorists.

In a talk with our army affairs correspondent the chief of staff said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is making an effort to implement lessons drawn from the murder of soldiers near Gal'ed. In his opinion, the main point is to guarantee that any group of soldiers anywhere will defend itself against any attack, even with gunfire when necessary.

Black Panther squads in Janin and in three nearby villages yesterday announced over loudspeakers that it was their members who murdered the three IDF soldiers last Friday night. Searches for the three terrorists are continuing, currently focusing on the intelligence level. The police forces in the Ramot Menashe area have been reinforced and security in the villages has been stepped up.

Arens on Lebanese Government Role

TA1802114092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Lebanese news agencies report that over 40 katyushas were fired at the northern settlements and the security zone last night and this morning. Artillery cannons of the Israeli Army and the South Lebanese Army continue to pound targets north of the security zone. Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated today that the Lebanese Government is partly responsible for putting an end to this situation. Our army affairs correspondent 'Ido Baum reports:

[Begin recording] [Baum] Defense Minister Moshe Arens stated today that Israel must put an end to the firing of katyushas at its northern settlements. Minister Arens also referred to the role the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Government are obligated to play in this task.

[Arens] One must bear in mind that the situation on the northern border today is different than it was years ago.

Today there is a Lebanese Government, a Lebanese Army. The Lebanese Government is responsible for what happens in the area, and we will tackle the problem accordingly.

[Baum] Will Israel make do with the Air Force raids?

[Arens] I do not think it would be wise on my part to divulge what we will or will not make do with. The challenge facing us is to put an end to this phenomenon. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Addresses Knesset on Incidents

TA1702171392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens said the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation yesterday evening was part of Israel's unrelenting war against terror. Israel will continue to hit all the terror organizations and will see to it that anybody who raises his murderous hand against Jews will not go scot-free, he stated.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that these remarks by the defense minister were contained in the government's announcement to the Knesset at the beginning of a debate about the terror attack last Friday night and yesterday's IDF operation in south Lebanon.

Minister Arens stressed that 'Abbas al-Musawi, the leader of Hizballah for over 10 years, is credited with the surge in terror attacks and with the kidnapping of Israeli soldiers Yosef Fink and Rahamim Alshekh and their ultimate fate.

Referring to the Friday night attack, the defense minister said it would be thoroughly probed and all the conclusions would be reached without any hesitation. Such an incident in a military installation is intolerable, Arens said.

Sharon Urges End to Hizballah, Panthers

TA1702175692 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1705 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon today called on the Israeli Government to stop warning and cautioning Hizballah and the Black Panthers but simply to eliminate them. Minister Sharon toured northern Israel today, accompanied by our correspondent Hayim Hecht.

[Begin recording] [Hecht] Asked by journalists to comment on the firing of katyushas this morning and the murders in a boot camp last Friday, Sharon replied with a tired smile on his face: I am fed up; I am simply tired of saying the same things time and again. I did not ask permission to speak in the cabinet session that discussed the massacre in the boot camp, Sharon recounted, although I think this is the most serious incident we have experienced since the State of Israel was established.

[Sharon] In the present situation, it is no longer possible to explain, warn, talk, deliberate, or make statements. Terror must be eliminated, and this can be done. The firing of 20 katyushas at civilian settlements is also a very serious phenomenon, and we were lucky that it ended as it did. We must deal seriously with this question as well, he said.

[Hecht] If we keep on talking and do not deal with them properly, Sharon cautioned, the terrorists will ultimately gain possession of nonconventional weapons. Now that the Soviet Union has collapsed that day is very close, Sharon said. [end recording]

Lubrani on Killing of al-Musawi

TA1702063092 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Interview with Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon, by army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe on 16 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Menashe] Uri Lubrani, coordinator of government activities in Lebanon: In your opinion, what influence will the death of this key figure, 'Abbas al-Musawi, have on Hizballah?

[Lubrani] I have no doubt that the blow dealt to that organization is critical. It is difficult today to tell the precise influence it will have, but I believe that an organization that loses its head has a real problem.

[Menashe] Will that organization's operational ability be damaged?

[Lubrani] I hope so. It is very difficult to assess this. It is not that Hizballah lacks replacements; there is no vacuum in such an organization. Still, I hope the members of that organization will understand they are no longer immune. If this damages their ability, then we have achieved our goal.

[Menashe] Was 'Abbas al-Musawi indeed such a key figure, with influence beyond the organization—that is, in Iran?

[Lubrani] There is no doubt that al-Musawi, like any other Hizballah leader, was connected with Iran, and received instructions, inspiration, money, and every other aid for his operation from Iran. There was definitely a connection in that respect.

[Menashe] Do you believe the Iranians might also react?

[Lubrani] I greatly doubt it. I do not think it will happen, but anything is possible.

[Menashe] Does al-Musawi have an immediate replacement, or was he extremely centralistic? He has a deputy, after all.

[Lubrani] He will surely have a replacement. I cannot now tell you exactly who, nor do I want to appoint a replacement there, but he will surely have a replacement.

[Menashe] How does this organization operate? After all, we are talking of a very closed, very radical organization.

[Lubrani] This is one of the difficulties with which we have to cope. This is not an open organization that announces its activities, plans, preparations, or resources. This is an extremely closed and secret organization.

[Menashe] The Air Force planes still managed to hit a convoy in which al-Musawi was traveling.

[Lubrani] You said it.

[Menashe] Is there satisfaction with this IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation?

[Lubrani] I believe so. It is a source of satisfaction, of course. I believe the IDF has again proven that its long arm reaches where it should.

[Menashe] We are talking about an organization that also operates against the United States and the West in general, not only against Israel.

[Lubrani] True. I think that organization is definitely known and identified as an organization that kidnapped the Western hostages, and held and tortured them for years.

[Menashe] Uri Lubrani, we still have POW's and MIA's. Do you not think such an operation can harm them?

[Lubrani] I do not think so.

15 Feb Attack on 'Terrorist Targets' Reported

TA1602052292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Israel Air Force aircraft and helicopters last night attacked terrorist targets belonging to 'Arafat's organization in south Lebanon and returned safely to base. Targets in the refugee camps of 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Rashidiyah were attacked. It was reported from south Lebanon that four people were killed and six were wounded in 'Ayn al-Hulwah. In al-Rashidiyah, a building that served as the PLO headquarters in Tyre was demolished.

Reports on Katyusha, Artillery Exchanges

TA1702063592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Katyushas were fired at the Galilee this morning, but there were no casualties. Our correspondent in the north Hayim Hecht reports:

This was to be expected. Hizballah members have indeed made a supreme effort to react with fire to the death of their leader. The katyushas fired from north of the security zone landed in several places in the Galilee this morning. Nobody was hurt, and no damage was caused, apparently. [passage omitted]

It was reported from the UN command that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery are reacting with heavy shelling of terrorist targets north of the security zone.

Artillery Fired North of Zone

TA1702112992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Katyushas were fired this morning at the security zone in southern Lebanon. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in one of the villages in the eastern sector, a katyusha landed inside a house, partially destroying it, but there were no casualties. Earlier it had been reported that katyushas were fired at the Galilee panhandle. [passage omitted]

Official military elements have confirmed that IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] artillery is directing fire at terrorist targets north of the security zone.

Further Firing as IDF, SLA Retaliate

TA1802052392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Several katyushas were fired at the northern border area and the security zone in southern Lebanon last night. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and SLA [South Lebanese Army] responded with artillery shelling at the source of the katyushas. Our correspondent in the north Hayim Hecht reports that many border area residents spent last night in shelters and protected rooms.

Another Round Causes Slight Damage

TA1802072392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Another round of katyushas was fired at the Galilee panhandle this morning. No one was hurt. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that one of the rockets caused slight damage in a farming area.

An earlier round of katyushas, fired early this morning at the north and the security zone in southern Lebanon, caused no damage and no casualties.

The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the SLA [South Lebanese Army] continue shelling the sources of the fire.

Palestinians Suspend Departure for Peace Talks

TA1802085092 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0830 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] The Palestinian delegates have decided to suspend their departure for the next round of peace talks for the time being. This was reported by our correspondent Galya Marom. The Palestinians claim that this follows last week's detention of Hebron resident Jamal al-Shuhaki, who was supposed to become a delegate. On the

other hand, Faysal al-Husayni left this morning for Amman for consultations. This was reported at a news conference in Jerusalem this morning.

'Urayqat: 'Strong Message' Intended

TA1802115292 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Palestinian delegates to the next round of Middle East peace talks, scheduled to start in Washington next week, have delayed their departure in protest at Israel's detention of two members of the negotiating team. It is now uncertain whether the Palestinians will participate in the talks. Mark Weiss has the story:

[Begin recording] [Weiss] The Palestinians announced their decision to delay their departure at a press conference in East Jerusalem this morning. [passage omitted]

The delegates also complained that Israeli policy in the territories makes negotiations impossible. Delegation member Sa'ib 'Urayqat:

['Urayqat] It's really obvious that we are trying to send a strong message to the world, to the sponsors, to the Israeli public, telling them that the Shamir government is not giving peace a chance. We have already said that we will be in Washington on the 24th, and I think we were one of the first teams to do so. Now comes the arrest of a Palestinian who is supposed to be a member of our negotiating team. Well, does that mean that tomorrow, at the bridge, they may turn a few of us back? So, the delay is.... [changes thought] We are waiting for clarifications from the Israelis, and we are waiting for some serious action by the Israeli Government in the hope that Mr. Jamal al-Shubaki can be released and join our team.

[Weiss] Without any change in the Israeli position, is there any hope that the Palestinians will travel to Washington?

['Urayqat] Well, I think this will be pending a decision of the Palestinian team itself. We are holding meetings on the hour every hour, and I think it's going to be very, very difficult to go to Washington without Mr. al-Shubaki with us.

[Weiss] Intensive consultations can be expected between local Palestinians and the PLO in Tunis over the next few days, before a final decision on participation is taken. The Palestinians have also asked the United States to put pressure on Israel to release the two delegates. Meanwhile, Faysal al-Husayni is traveling to Jordan for consultations. [end recording]

'Ashrawi: Process 'Near Collapse'

TA1802123192 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Report by Moti Amir]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Speaking at a news conference in Jerusalem this morning, Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi stressed that the peace process is near collapse. According to her, the Palestinians have decided to suspend their departure to the round of talks in Washington and will not leave for Amman tomorrow because of the continued settlement activity and the detention of two members of the delegation, which, according to her, was expanded to allow experts on various issues to attend the peace negotiations.

Faysal al-Husayni stressed that it is not at all certain that the peace process will go on as before and that it is not clear whether the Palestinians will take part in the round of talks in Washington next week. After the news conference, al-Husayni left for Amman for a series of consultations regarding the delegates' future steps.

It should be stressed that the delegation decided to delay its departure to Washington and that there was no talk about stopping the peace talks. A message to this effect was conveyed this morning to the U.S. Consulate in Jerusalem.

Settlements Must Be Discussed

TA1402182592 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 14 Feb 92

[Text] Our correspondent has learned that members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks have recently held intensive contacts with the U.S. Administration over the upcoming fourth round of the bilateral negotiations, which will be held on 24 February in Washington. Correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem adds that members of the Palestinian delegation decided not to continue the negotiations if in the upcoming round of talks their demand to discuss the issue of halting Israeli settlement in the territories is not met. That decision was made after the delegation failed to reach agreement with the U.S. Administration on the matter.

Our correspondent has learned that the Palestinian delegation received a letter from James Baker that contained U.S. assurance of the traditional U.S. position on the settlements, which the U.S. Administration regards as an obstacle to peace.

Palestinians' Seven-Point Paper

TA1502195392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 15 Feb 92

[Report by Amir Hay]

[Excerpts] Yesterday's incident, in which soldiers were killed near Kibbutz Gal'ed, was felt in the background of the political meeting held today by several members of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks. It should be stressed that all the Palestinian delegates refused to condemn the killings. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Palestinian camp is continuing its preparations for the peace talks due to resume on 24 January

in Washington. On 13 February, the Palestinian delegates wrote this communication [video shows document], which they relayed to the Israeli delegation.

The Palestinian communication raises seven points which the delegation wishes to discuss on 24 January in Washington. These are the points: a discussion of Resolution 242; an immediate freeze of settlement activities; a more precise definition of the principles for the interim period; the status of East Jerusalem as an inseparable part of the territories; another matter the Palestinian want to discuss in Washington is the repatriation rights of the 1948 refugees. [total of five points as heard]

Palestinian sources have said that in the past few days, a major effort was mounted to convince organizations opposing the peace process of the importance of these points. At present, the Palestinian camp is waiting for the Israeli answer. Only then, says Faysal al-Husayni, will the Palestinians make a final decision on whether they will participate in the Washington talks in nine days. The formal reply will be presumably given in two days.

Netanyahu: Israeli Delegation To Depart on Time

TA1802105492 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Telephone interview with Binyamin Netanyahu, deputy minister at the Prime Minister's Office, by political correspondent Arye Golan; "a short while ago"—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] This afternoon, Jerusalem is saying that the Israeli delegation will attend the next round of talks in Washington next weekend in any event.

[Netanyahu] The Israeli delegation will leave for the Washington talks on time. Time after time, we are witness to attempts by the Palestinians and others to torpedo the talks. In Madrid it was a kaffiyeh; in Washington it was a corridor. Since Madrid, we have witnessed a systematic rise in terror activity guided or incited by PLO headquarters, with which the central Palestinian delegates identify; that is to say that they incite to terrorism, while using our acts against those engaged in terror activity as an excuse not to attend the talks. Therefore, they must decide: terror or peace talks. The time has come for them to make the right decision. Right now, they are simply exposing the fact that they do not want peace.

[Golan] In their news conference this morning, 'Ashrawi and al-Husayni said that they are suspending their participation because of Israeli provocations, the continued settlement drive, and also the detention of two delegates: Jamal al-Shubaki and Muhammad Hurani.

[Netanyahu] Well, this is altogether a new level of chutzpah. The men you mentioned are accused of organizing terror acts against Israeli citizens. As a responsible government, it is our natural right and duty to detain such people and prevent them from continuing their destructive activity. I find it hard to understand how it is possible to support such people on the one hand and use our legitimate acts as an excuse not to go to Washington on the other.

[Golan] Jerusalem, therefore, is preparing for the continuation of the peace talks.

Levi: No Retreat From 'Substance' of Camp David

TA1802055792 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi says U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will play an active role in next week's bilateral peace talks in Washington. Levi says the American secretary wants to pressure the sides to the peace talks to agree to a venue for future negotiations. David Ze'ev reports:

The bilateral peace talks, scheduled to open next Monday, will be the third round of talks taking place in Washington. Israel continues to insist on a closer venue, if not the Middle East. At yesterday's meeting of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Foreign Minister David Levi said as far as Israel is concerned, these will be the final talks in Washington, and in fact, Levi says, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker set the date for next week for the resumption of negotiations to be back in Washington after a long trip abroad. Levi says Baker wants to be involved to force the sides to agree on a future venue.

On Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's comments about the Camp David accords, Levi agreed with Shamir that there is no need to stick to every letter and word. As Levi put it: Things have changed over the years; but on the substance, he said, there is no Israeli retreat from either the Camp David accords or from the idea of autonomy.

On the question of American loan guarantees, Levi said the ongoing discussions and inquiries are so delicate that any statement or comment could only spoil them; therefore, he said, he prefers not to express himself on the subject and only to hope that the talks will end with an agreement soon. He said Israel must reach an agreement with the U.S. Administration instead of relying on taking unilateral actions or initiatives against the administration's wishes or even just without prior agreement with Washington. Levi denied reports of efforts to put off the issue of the loan guarantees until after the American elections in November.

And to the financial downside of the growing number of countries establishing or renewing diplomatic relations with Israel, the Foreign Ministry has gone to the Treasury asking for $50 million to pay for the some 12 new embassies being set up around the world.

Abu-Jabir Denounces Israeli Raids in Lebanon

JN1702134492 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1233 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] The foreign minister, Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir, says that the recent Israeli raids in southern Lebanon prove Israel's real intentions once again, especially its willingness to abort the peace process, and to create circumstances which would curb and thwart the peace process. In a statement to JNA, Dr. Abu-Jabir said Israel intends these aggressive raids to abort the next round of negotiations in Washington, which requires that the two cosponsors of the peace process exert real and serious effort to confront these Israeli practices, which have a grave effect on the overall peace process. Dr. Abu-Jabir said that positive Arab stands are being met with continued Israeli extremism and intransigence. He said it requires the international community to shoulder its responsibilities.

Editorial Denounces Israeli 'Organized Terrorism'

JN1702103292 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 17 Feb 92 pp 1, 18

[Editorial: "State Terrorism Versus Legitimate Resistance"]

[Text] Though even the Israeli right-wing extremists could not describe the fedayeen operation against an Israeli Army camp as terrorist—the way Israel propaganda used to describe Palestinian resistence operations—the Israeli Government practiced state terrorism against defenseless Palestinian civilians in southern Lebanon, who are neither guilty nor reponsible for what happened at the Israeli camp.

Moreover, Shamir's government did not stop at exercising state terrorism far from the scene of the heroic fedayeen operation; it went beyond that to attempt foolishly to link this exceptional operation to the peace process, implicitly threatening to stop the bilateral talks under the pretext that those who talk about peace should stop exercising one of their simplest rights; that is, resisting occupation with all forms of legitimate resistance.

The Israeli Government has declared in advance that its participation in the peace process does not mean stopping its attacks on the Palestinians and Arabs. After receiving a strong blow at the hands of a group of resistance heroes, however, it began to use double standards, claiming that all the horrible retaliatory actions it might undertake are legitimate, while all acts of resistance, whether in the form of a stone or a Molotov cocktail, are illegitimate and terrorist.

We will not engage in a battle of words with Israel, because its organized terrorism against civilians in Palestine and Lebanon is evident to all and is disgraceful to the civilized world. This is especially true since defenseless civilians were and continue to be the real victims of the Israeli actions, which have been marked over the past decades by cowardice, terrorism, and racism. These actions have also been continuously denounced and condemned by the world, as shown by the resolutions issued by the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva a few days ago.

The big lesson the rulers of Israel should learn from this brave fedayeen operation against the Israeli soldiers is that this vicious circle of violence, killing, and blood will continue inevitably until Israel fully withdraws from the occupied Arab territories; until the Palestinian people restore all their legitimate rights; and until peace prevails in the region, according to the principles of international legitimacy and the resolutions of both the Security Council and the United Nations.

By continuing the policy of ignoring the glaring facts by expanding the cycle of killing and terrorism, continuing to obstruct the peace process, Judaizing and confiscating land, and denying the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, Israel is like the one who plants thorns and waters them with grudge and hatred in the hope that flowers will grow. This is what the Israeli leaders have been falsely imagining and repeatedly attempting to do throughout the past decades.

Hizballah Leader Killed in Israeli Air Attack

Beirut Radio Reports Attack

NC1602171092 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Excerpts] We have just received word that two of the Israeli enemy's helicopters launched a missile attack at 1615 today on the outskirts of Tuffahta in the al-Zahrani area. The two aircraft fired more than six guided missiles in the attacks. According to reports from various sources, the helicopters fired their missiles at a Hizballah motorcade, and a large number of people were killed or wounded in the attack. [passage omitted]

We have also received news that Israeli gunboats accompanied by helicopters were seen moving along the coast in the area between al-Zahrani and Tyre. Lebanese Army ground units resisted the raiding planes with various types of weapons. Lebanese Army personnel have deployed in the area where the raid took place and are helping the Lebanese Red Cross and civil defense teams to evacuate the wounded.

Tehran Radio Describes Attack

LD1602223192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] We continue our news bulletin with news of the martyrdom of the resistant cleric, Sayyed 'Abbas al-Musawi, by the Zionist regime's executioners. Hojjat-ol Eslam val Moslemin Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, secretary general of Lebanon's revolutionary Hizballah movement, was martyred during a terrorist attack launched by the Jerusalem occupation regime.

According to a Central News Unit report from Beirut, to counter the revolutionary actions and operations of the resistant cleric Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, the Zionist regime attacked the car carrying the resistant cleric in a premeditated plot using helicopter gunships. The attack destroyed three cars, including the one carrying Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi; the secretary general of Lebanon's revolutionary Hizballah movement was martyred along with his wife and young child. According to initial reports, at least six other Muslims accompanying Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi were among the martyrs of this terrorist attack. A few minutes ago our correspondent in Beirut sent us this report:

[Begin recorded telephone dispatch] The resistant cleric Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, secretary general of Lebanon's revolutionary Hizballah movement, became the target of an assassination, and was martyred yesterday evening in a terrorist raid launched by Zionist forces in southern Lebanon.

At 1630 on Sunday, the vehicles carrying Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, secretary general of Lebanon's revolutionary Hizballah movement, and his entourage became the targets of a terrorist attack launched by the Zionist regime's helicopter gunships in Zahrani, south of Sidon [as heard], as they were returning to Beirut from a memorial service in honor of Shaykh Raghib Harb in Jibshit village, southern Lebanon. In the course of the raid, which lasted for half an hour, the Zionist regime's helicopters targeted three cars carrying Hojjat-ol Eslam val Moslemin Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi and his entourage, using rockets and air-to-ground missiles. Hojjat-ol Eslam val Moslemin Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, his wife and child, and a number of other Muslims were martyred in this crime.

Following reports of the resistant cleric Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi's assassination in Lebanon, all Muslim-inhabited regions in Lebanon were filled with anger and mourning, and the region's Muslim radios and televisions interrupted their normal programming to broadcast Koranic verses and excerpts of speeches delivered by martyr Allameh Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi before his death.

The martyred secretary general of Lebanon's revolutionary Hezbollah movement, in a speech delivered before his martyrdom at the memorial ceremony for martyr Shaykh Raghib Harb in southern Lebanon, said: On the anniversary of the martyrdom of Shaykh Raghib Harb, we once again renew our pledge to God to continue our sacred jihad against the Zionist regime and global arrogance on the path laid out by His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, and under the leadership of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the vali-e amr of the Muslims [guardian of the cause], until the annihilation of the Zionist regime.

Continuing his speech, martyr Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi pointed to the philosophy of jihad and martyrdom in Islam, saying: The combatants in Lebanon's resistance movements, by following the lessons of the infallible imams, will continue their jihad against the Zionist regime without paying any attention to the various plots hatched by global arrogance, such as the international peace conference and other treacherous plots by the compromisers.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's revolutionary Hizballah movement issued a statement in Beirut last night declaring general mourning for a period of one week. The statement stressed the need for the Islamic resistance forces to continue their operations against the Zionist regime. [end recording]

Hizballah Reacts to Killing of al-Musawi

Radio Issues Call For Vengeance

NC1602173792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Summary From Poor Reception] We appeal to all those who fire bullets in the air not to fire in the air, because these bullets should be used for vengeance, which should come quickly.

Official Statement Issued

NC1602190292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1736 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Official statement issued by Hizballah on 16 February on the death of General Secretary 'Abbas al-Musawi]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Think not of those who are slain in God's way as dead. Nay, they live, finding their sustenance in the presence of the Lord. [Koranic verse]

On the blessed land that he loved and that loved him; in the Jabal 'Amil area of resistance, which [words indistinct] his struggling spirit; and on its roads, that glow with his footsteps, and where he wanted to meet his Lord as a testimony to the oppression of the invading Zionists, brandishing the sword of truth and his word in the face of the despicable occupation, and in the midst of the sons of the Islamic Resistance, whom he has constantly supported and protected with his cloak and the turban of his grandfather, the prophet of God—God's prayers and peace be upon him; and on the same day in which his brother and comrade the shaykh of all martyrs Raghib Harb was martyred, 'Allamah Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, secretary general of Hizballah, died today a martyr for the sake of God, along with his wife, his child, and some of his escorts, when his convoy was subjected to a concentrated Zionist enemy air raid at the Tuffahta road junction, a raid that targeted the Islamic Resistance, the nation of Hizballah, and all the honest and free people struggling for liberation, dignity, and pride. His eminence died while grasping the most trustworthy handhold [Koranic verse], adhering to the line of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, and [words indistinct] obedient to the supreme jurisconsult, the leader Khamene'i.

As we announce, with great pride and patience, the martyrdom of the great martyr of the Islamic Resistance to the imam of the age, the man of the age and time; to the glorious Islamic nation in Lebanon and the world; and to the sons and masses of the Islamic resistance, we pledge to God, Islam, and the supreme jurisconsult, the leader and the nation and the resistance, to continue to march on the path of the chaste prophets and holy men. For us God sufficeth, and He is the best disposer of affairs. [Koranic verse]

Strike, Period of Mourning Called

NC1702080192 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Hizballah's Informtion Unit has called for a general strike today and tomorrow. The funeral procession of 'Abbas al-Musawi will travel from Imam 'Ali Mosque to his hometown, al-Nabi Shit in Ba'labakk, at 1000 [0800 GMT] today. The Information Unit also called for a seven-day period of general mourning. Hizballah will receive condolences at the religious school in Ba'labakk.

Final al-Musawi Speech Reported

NC1602195192 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Before he was killed today, 'Abbas al-Musawi spoke at a ceremony marking the eighth anniversary of the murder of Shaykh Raghib Harb. In his speech, al-Musawi attacked the government, saying: We declare our stand on occupation just as we declare our stand on the state's negligence of Jabal 'Amil. He attacked the state for its negligence concerning displaced persons, health conditions, and agriculture.

Discussing the budget, al-Musawi said: Why is the state rich in one area and poor in another? We now see some leaders with palaces and vast lands, who in the past were unable to build a house.

Al-Musawi reminded President al-Hirawi of his stand on the resistance: Was it not the holder of power, President al-Hirawi, who made a statement over a year ago—I imagine he now regrets having made it—in which he said: We will try to implement Resolution 425; if Israel does not implement it, we will all turn to resistance. Israel has not implemented the resolution but it has humiliated you in the negotiations. Why do you not admit this?

Al-Musawi said: We will raise the banner of ending deprivation and weakness, and the entire world will realize that, as we were the first to resist the occupation, we will be the first to resist negligence and deprivation.

Before he was killed, al-Musawi also said:

[Begin recording] In the name of the people who overthrew the 17 May agreement and ousted a humiliated Israel from Lebanon, we will shoulder our responsibilities and uphold the banner of jihad and confrontation until this state falls, come what may, because our nobility and dignity are above all else. [end recording]

New Secretary General Elected

NC1802125392 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1244 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] We have just received the following report:

His eminence Hasan Nasrallah was elected secretary general of Hizballah last night by unanimous vote.

Lebanese Government Reacts to Israeli Action

Al-Husayni, Karami View Attack

NC1702211592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Husayn al-Husayni, Chamber of Deputies speaker, has denounced Israel's disregard for all international norms. The message one gets from Israel's actions, he said, is that every country has the right to strike at will at other countries. Al-Husayni was speaking after the

weekly meeting between the country's three top officials—the president, the prime minister, and the speaker—held tonight at the President's Office.

Al-Husayni said Israel does not want peace, while the Arabs are opting for peace. Al-Husayni said Lebanon is ready at a moment's notice to draw up a timetable for implementing UN Security Council Resolution 425. Al-Husayni said that the government's decision in this regard is clear.

Prime Minister 'Umar Karami said that the Israeli escalation was not uncharacteristic. He said the government has made an irreversible decision to use all possible means to defend the country's sovereignty and independence and to liberate every inch of Lebanese soil.

Concerning Israel's motives for the attacks, Karami said: It probably wants to discourage Lebanon from participating in the peace process. He added: We are using diplomatic means quite effectively to place the facts before the international community and the conference's two cosponsors. It is unacceptable to carry out double-dealing. The world would be wrong to turn a blind eye as Israel strikes at will against Lebanon, while any Lebanese who tries to defend his land is automatically branded a terrorist. This is unacceptable by the standards of international law and by the norms of the justice which we all seek.

Chamber of Deputies Calls for Unity

NC1702115092 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1100 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Statement by the Chamber of Deputies Speaker's Office issued on 17 February]

[Text] The Israeli rulers' new crime—another one of their excesses, in which 'Allamah Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi was martyred—is clear proof that Israel continues to adopt a hostile attitude toward peace and is trying to undermine Lebanon's security and stability.

While voicing our strongest denunciation of this hideous crime, we are confident that the Lebanese people will confront these types of crimes with determination to liberate their land from Israeli occupation and restore their sovereignty over it. The most effective weapon in achieving this goal is to preserve our national unity and to enhance our ability to confront these aggressions. It is incumbent on international forums, particularly the United Nations, to shoulder their responsibility in implementing legitimate international resolutions.

We ask God to grant His boundless mercy on the martyr Sayyid al-Musawi and his comrades.

Security Council Session Urged

NC1702123292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Statement issued by the Higher Defense Council following a meeting to discuss the situation in south Lebanon, read by Brigadier General Yahya Ra'd, the council's secretary general—recorded]

[Text] In the wake of repeated Israeli acts of aggression against several southern areas, particularly helicopter attacks on civilian areas and motorcades; the assassination of Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi, his wife, and his companions; and after learning of several Israeli ultimatums, the Higher Defense Council held an emergency meeting today chaired by the president and attended by the prime minister and the ministers of defense, finance, economy, interior, and foreign affairs. The Army commander and a number of senior Army command officers were also invited to attend.

The council chairman, deputy chairman, and members condemned the sinful aggression against Shaykh al-Musawi and his companions. The council was then briefed on the latest field and political reports, including the Foreign Ministry's plan to lodge an urgent complaint with the Security Council and ask for an emergency session. The council assessed the abnormal situation in the south and made the following unanimous decisions:

1. To refuse Israeli ultimatums and threats, and to declare Lebanon's determination to defend its sovereignty and national dignity;

2. To voice its appreciation of the Lebanese Army's steadfastness in implementing the Council of Ministers' orders to exercise its legitimate right to defend Lebanon's land and people; and

3. To consider the Defense Council in permanent session and to follow up on the Israeli ultimatums and threats in the extraordinary Council of Ministers session to be held tomorrow afternoon.

Ambassadors Summoned

NC1802120692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general, this morning summoned the ambassadors to Lebanon of the five permanent members of the Security Council. He asked them to convey to their governments Lebanon's affirmation of the call for a Security Council meeting to discuss the serious situation in the south.

PRC, Russian Envoys Comment

NC1802105892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general, this morning began his meetings

with the ambassadors of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council to discuss the situation in the south in light of the recent Israeli attacks. Ambassador Shammas will also discuss a Lebanese protest of the Israeli attacks.

Shammas has so far met with the Chinese, Russian, and British ambassadors. The Chinese ambassador denounced Israel's recent acts of violence, noting that a solution in the south is contingent on Israel ending its occupation. He added: I was briefed by the secretary general on the situation in the south.

For his part, the Russian ambassador had the following to say after the meeting: I was briefed on the current situation in southern Lebanon and on steps the Lebanese Government is taking regarding the dramatic developments in the south.

As for Russia's stand, the ambassador said: We see no justification for the escalation of violence in the region because violence is incompatible with sound logic and the new international political mentality. I would like to say that we always coordinate our steps with the Lebanese leadership, and we will therefore coordinate our stands with the Lebanese delegation at the United Nations. [passage omitted]

The Russian ambassador conveyed his condolences on the martyrdom of 'Abbas al-Musawi.

Factions, Others React to al-Musawi Killing

Fadlallah Urges 'Greater Resolve'

LD1602225192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Excerpt] 'Allamah Sayyed Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, one of the prominent Lebanese ulema, said in a speech on the martyrdom of the resistant cleric Sayyed 'Abbas al-Musawi: Hojjat-ol Eslam val Moslemin Sayyed 'Abbas al-Musawi was a pupil and a follower of the path of Imam Khomeyni, sanctified be his soul, and had devoted his life to performing divine duties, which culminated in the realization of his great wish, which was to be martyred in the path of God.

Continuing his speech and having condemned any talks and compromise with the Zionist regime, 'Allamah Fadlallah addressed the Islamic resistance combatants, saying: Israel understands no language other than that of arms; the children of the Islamic resistance who are on the front line of the struggle against the Zionist regime must continue their sacred and liberating battle against the enemies of Islam and humanity with much greater resolve. [passage omitted]

Urges Continued Struggle

NC1702073292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Ayatalloh al-Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has eulogized his eminence, Hizballah Secretary General al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi.

In his statement, Fadlallah said: In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God: Of them, some have completed their vow to the extreme, and some still wait: But they have never changed their determination in the least. [Koranic verse]

The political, security, and military jihad against Israel remains open to Muslims on all fronts, so as to confront its barbaric terrorism, which has drowned the region in blood, destroying it in the process. It has used barbaric means and a satanic war machine to kill men in this part of the world. It has killed tens of thousands of women, children, the elderly, and young men. It has expelled millions from their lands. It continues to act in this way in a strategic alliance with U.S. arrogance, which has tried to silence every voice raised for freedom, and to eliminate every movement in the Arab and Islamic world that seeks justice on earth.

Fadlallah added: Mujahid scholar 'Abbas al-Musawi was martyred on the decisive battleground and on the stage of Islamic resistance. He fought with his words and stands, and directed the war against Israel through the resistance. He completely supported all the mujahidin in standing fast against all the capitulationist plans, represented by negotiations with an enemy which aims to bring everyone to their knees under U.S. pressure and concede everything to Israel. [passage omitted]

Addressing the mujahidin of the Islamic resistance and the intifadah in Palestine, Ayatollah Fadlallah said: O vanguards of jihad in the Islamic movement and resistance. O heroes of Islam. O noble and good people. O defenders of Islam and freedom in south Lebanon, western al-Biqa', the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. For you, the battle remains open. You have the honor and glory of remaining in the arena from which many have withdrawn. You are still holding the difficult position many have discarded. Continue along the path of jihad. Martyrdom is the nation's glory and honor. The road is long and the battle difficult, but the goals are great, the greatest being Almighty God's blessing. Only the steadfast mujahidin leaders and members who have sacrificed themselves to God will reach the end of the road that you and Muslims everywhere are taking for the sake of freedom. [passage omitted]

IUM, Amal Mourn al-Musawi

NC1702074592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] His Eminence Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement [IUM], announced to the

Islamic nation the martyrdom of the Hizballah secretary general at the hands of the aggressor Zionists, praying that God's great mercy be upon him.

Shaykh Sha'ban's announcement said: We pledge to God Almighty that we will pursue Islam's march without fear or hesitation in accordance with God's words: So lose not heart, nor fall into despair: For ye must gain mastery if ye are true in faith. [Koranic verse]

We are confident that this chaste blood is God's price for victory. The nation which has sold itself and its possessions to God is the nation of victory. Rest in God's favor Abu-Yasir [al-Musawi], you, your wife and child, and all Islam's martyrs since history began, from the day of your martyrdom until the hour of judgment.

His eminence added: You have been first to rest with God. We will not accept an alternative to God's power. We have pledged to God to live and die as Muslims until right triumphs and falsehood is annihilated. Praise be to God in all events, whom no other is praised in adversity. We only say what pleases our God. To God we belong and to him we return.

The Amal Movement announced the death of the struggler 'Allamah Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, describing the Zionist raid as treacherous and criminal.

An Amal statement said that Sayyid al-Musawi's martyrdom in the place where Shaykh Raghib Harb was previously martyred proves again that the enemy is continuing its policy of assassination, physical liquidation, and massacre. It also emphasizes that the resistance policy—which the strugglers have been pursuing on the Jabal 'Amil hills against occupation, annexation, and Judaization—must continue.

Amal added: Aggression against the Palestinian camps in the south and his eminence Sayyid al-Musawi proves that everyone must remain vigilant against Israel's escalating aggressive policy, and be alert in confronting any contingency.

'Ignite the Fire of Anger'

NC1702091792 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0830 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] The Islamic Jihad Organization-Palestine has announced the death of the Hizballah secretary general, His Eminence al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi.

The organization issued a statement, saying: We announce to our Islamic nation and our Palestinian and Lebanese people the martyrdom of the symbol of Islamic resistance, the symbol of challenge and steadfastness against the Zionist enemy, the great mujahid, and the unique leader 'Abbas al-Musawi, his wife, and his son.

The Islamic Jihad Organization calls on our mujahid Palestinian people to declare a three-day general strike and period of mourning beginning today. It calls on the jihad vanguards and all supporters and followers of Islamic Jihad in occupied Palestine to ignite the fire of anger and revenge against the occupation and to escalate the confrontations and operations against the usurping, criminal, and murderous occupiers.

The Islamic Jihad Organization also calls for igniting a sweeping popular anger and for staging massive popular marches to underline the unity of holy jihad in Lebanon and Palestine, and to underline the cohesiveness of Lebanese and Palestinian blood against the criminal enemy.

Shiites Urge Boycott of Talks

NC1702165192 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] The Jabal 'Amil ulema group criticized the Lebanese state's forbearance in allowing Israel to violate its airspace to pursue people inside their homes and cars.

It called on the state to boycott Washington's Middle East bilateral talks in an open and emphatic protest against the killing of Lebanese citizens, particularly major figures.

The group called on the members of the Islamic resistance to carry out their role in restoring the nation's dignity and directing the most painful strikes possible against the Israeli enemy.

Phalangist Leader Condemns Action

NC1702191592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 17 Feb 92

[George Shahin report from the Phalangist Party headquarters in Beirut on 17 February—live or recorded]

[Excerpt] Phalangist Party leader Dr. George Sa'adah has denounced yesterday's assassination of Hizballah Secretary General Shaykh 'Abbas al-Musawi and expressed dismay over the crime.

Speaking at a plenary meeting of the Phalangist Party's Political Bureau, Consultative Committee, and Central Council held at 1700 today, Dr. Sa'adah said: Everyone knows the circumstances in which this attack has taken place. Dr. Sa'adah expressed concern over the possible consequences for the south of the assassination. Dr. Sa'adah recalled how the murder of three Palestinian officials in Beirut sent shock waves throughout the country and paved the way for the Israeli invasion in 1982.

Dr. Sa'adah called for reason to prevail and said that matters should be pondered thoroughly and realistically. Dr. Sa'adah said that the Lebanese need to agree on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 425 and 426. [passage omitted]

Editorial Denounces 'Crime'

NC1702170892 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0845 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] In an AL-DIYAR editorial, Charles Ayyub writes: The type of crime, the determination to commit a crime, and the use of advanced technology and equipment for a criminal purpose are unprecedented. When Israeli aircraft equipped with rockets and bombs chase civilian cars and attack them with these weapons, then ask yourself: To what extent has Israeli criminality reached? What level has the nation's humiliation and disgrace reached? Where is the world's conscience, its new world order, and the talk about human rights?

Scholar 'Abbas al-Musawi, his wife, and son were martyred. Even the car that carried one of the wounded to the hospital was chased by the planes and burned. This was indicative of the determination to assassinate martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi.

What does this mean? It means that we are in the age of direct Israeli tyranny, the age of direct Israeli slavery, the age of Jewish arrogance and criminality. A complaint to the Security Council? Crocker, U.S. ambassador in Beirut, will come tomorrow and advise against lodging a complaint because Washington will use its veto in the Security Council, as it does not want to embarrass itself. But this also means that the Israeli enemy has started to lose its nerve and is using technological equipment in a contemptuous and cowardly way against civilian cars. It means that the columns of fighters in southern Lebanon are shaking the Israeli entity. It means that the fighters in southern Lebanon have created confusion inside the Israeli army command in the south, and therefore it has resorted to this cowardly method of using its aircraft against civilians.

Ayyub continues: Scholar 'Abbas al-Musawi, his wife, and his son were martyred. Children are always victims in Israeli raids. The Jews' hatred of children from Jesus' time to the present cannot be separated from Jewish criminal practices, especially against children.

The writer adds: O prince of the martyrs of the south. You chose the road of martyrdom and now face God assured that you have fought for justice. The fate of your wife, martyred beside you, was probably to be martyred with her husband. But we ask the world and its conscience: What crime has this child committed? What crime has he committed except that Jewish hatred focuses on children and kills them?

O prince of the martyrs of the south. Our people will not forget. The roads of al-Nabatiyah tomorrow will blossom with flowers, watered by your blood and that of our martyrs. The south will ignite against the Jewish occupation. Regardless of what it does and who it assassinates, Israel will not affect the morale of those fighting for the sake of justice, the land, and God. We will most definitely take revenge. A human flood will erupt and will inevitably sweep away the false security strip. The roads of al-Nabatiyah, Tibnin, and al-Zahrani will blossom and a spring of greenery and red roses will come, nourished by the blood of martyrs.

We are holding our heads high today because there is no glory superior to that of martyrdom and heroism. The fighters and heroes of the south will remain stronger and prouder than the Jews who use technology and hide behind it in order to assassinate our people while we face them with bare chests.

Concluding his editorial, Ayyub says: O martyr. You died yesterday. But rest assured that the convoys of heroes will continue to fight and resist and will not submit to Jewish slavery. Rest assured that we will retaliate for the bullets fired at you. We will retaliate fiercely and will do so inside the Wailing Wall and inside every Jewish house built in our usurped lands. O prince of martyrs in the south. Rest in peace because the heroes have taken the oath and today have a greater incentive following your martyrdom. Rest in peace, O prince of martyrs. We will take revenge.

Al-Din, Nabih Birri Cited

NC1602224792 London MBC Television in Arabic 2200 GMT 16 Feb 22 Feb 92

[Text] The assassination of Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi in an Israeli air raid this afternoon has provoked the anger of Hizballah leaders. Hizballah issued a statement this evening calling on its supporters to wage a holy jihad against the Hebrew state. It threatened to wage an all-out conflict against Tel Aviv.

A short while ago, we contacted Jad al-Akhawi, our correspondent in Beirut, and asked him if there has been any Lebanese reaction to al-Musawi's assassination. He said:

[Begin recording] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shiite Islamic Council, strongly condemned the aggression and held responsible the major states and the UN Security Council, which have been disregarding Israel's persistence in its aggression against Lebanon, its people, and the Arab nation.

Shaykh Shams al-Din emphasized that this aggression will not affect Lebanon's determination and adherence to its rights and sovereignty, or its call for the implementation of Resolution 425; nor will it affect the march of Islamic and national resistance against the Israeli occupation.

Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri issued a statement in which he said that the treacherous aggression against the south and its people, which culminated in the assassination of al-Sayyid al-Musawi, his wife and son, and a number of his aides, constitutes an act of aggression against Lebanon and all Lebanese. In denunciation of this crime, Minister Birri called on all Lebanese, in the name of the national and Islamic forces, to observe a general strike tomorrow, 17 February.

Minister 'Abdallah al-Amin said that this crime will be added to the Zionist criminal and terrorist record. He wondered how long the UN Security Council will remain silent over Zionist terrorism. [end recording]

Groups Call for Strikes

NC1702082492 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] The Higher Islamic Shiite Council; Shaykh Mahir Hammud, on behalf of the Islamic Scholars Grouping; the Amal Movement; the Communist Party; Ministers Zahir al-Khatib, 'Abdallah al-Amin, and Muhsin Dallul; Mustafa Sa'd, the secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization; and the Progressive Socialist Party have denounced the death of Hizballah secretary general 'Abbas al-Musawi.

In denunciation of al-Musawi's death, the leading figures in Sidon have declared a general strike in the city and its suburbs today. The civil administration has also declared a strike in the mountains. Palestinian camps in Beirut will also stage a general strike.

Our correspondent in Sidon reported this morning that an atmosphere of tension and caution prevails in the area and normal life appears paralyzed. Schools and shops have already closed in implementation of the general strike to mark the assassination of al-Musawi and the victims of the Israeli raids on the camps in the south.

The funeral of al-Musawi, his wife and child will begin at 1000 [0800 GMT] today in the al-Rasul al-'Azam Mosque. The funeral of al-Musawi's companions will take place in al-Imam 'Ali Mosque in Ba'labakk.

'Thousands' Join al-Musawi Funeral Procession

South Beirut 'Paralyzed'

NC1702094292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0830 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The march will continue despite the cruelty of the blow. There is only one pledge: Revenge, vengeance, and victory over our enemies. While the Islamic resistance's prince of martyrs has gone to his rest with God Almighty, the funeral procession beginning at al-Rasul al-'A'zam Mosque in Beirut's southern suburb is proof that the entire nation is pursuing his policy.

The procession began in front of al-Rasul al-'A'zam Mosque a short time ago and proceeded along the airport road. Party, spiritual, and popular delegations estimated to number in the hundreds of thousands are taking part. Leading the procession are their eminences Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadallah; Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli; Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik; Shaykh Na'im Qasim; and Haj Husayn Khalil, chairman of Hizballah's Political Bureau. Delegations from the Progressive Socialist Party, led by Walid Junblatt; the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, led by Ahmad Jibril; popular delegations from the Palestinian camps; a group of Druze ulema; Minister 'Ali al-Khalil; Deputy 'Ali Hamad Ja'far; and representatives of nationalist parties and forces are also at the head of the procession.

Activity has been completely paralyzed in the southern suburb, signs of sorrow prevail, and Koranic recitations are rising from the minarets and Shiite shrines in mourning for the martyrdom of 'Allamah al-Musawi.

Reports indicate that hundreds of thousands of mourners are participating in the funeral procession. Newspaper and media correspondents have been unable to reach the beginning of the procession because of the unprecedented number of mourners.

The hearse carrying 'Allamah al-Musawi's body has been unable to move because of the density of the crowd.

Ayatollah Jannati, representative of the Islamic revolution's leader, is expected to arrive in Beirut at any moment. He will lead a major political and military delegation to participate in the funeral rites.

'Israel Will Know the Price'

NC1702131492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The massive funeral procession of the Hizballah secretary general has arrived at the square in front of Hizballah's Consultative Council. Nearby streets were full of people waiting for the procession of the Islamic resistance's prince of martyrs. Members of official and party delegations, led by His Eminence Ayatollah Jannati, representative of the Supreme Juriconsult; Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohajeri, representative of the Islamic republic's president; brother Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, assistant to the Islamic republic's foreign minister; His Eminence Shaykh Mohammad Hasan Akhtari, the Islamic republic's ambassador in Damascus; His Eminence Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah; and leaders of Lebanese and Palestinian parties participated in the procession.

Hizballah's deputy secretary general, His Eminence Shaykh Na'im Qasim, eulogized the prince of Islamic resistance martyrs, who was no stranger to the resistance front. Qasim said that 'Abbas al-Musawi was a thorn in the side of arrogance and its protege, Israel. He stressed that this crime will not weaken our determination to continue the policy of the supreme martyr al-Imam al-Husayn, God's peace be with him. Death is a habit with us and it is our place to seek sacrifice for the sake of God, he said.

His eminence added: They killed Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, but we are all 'Abbas al-Musawi. The prince of martyrs refused to die alone and Umm Yasir, the mujahid and patient woman, died with him, becoming

an example for our women and daughters in the process. His son also died with him thus becoming an example for our sons.

Shaykh Na'im Qasim added: We are all available for martyrdom and to be resistance soldiers under the leadership of guardian of Muslims, 'Ali Khamene'i, may God protect him. The prince of our martyrs has gained entry into paradise while we wait for martyrdom or victory.

Hizballah's deputy secretary general stressed that the struggle with the Zionist enemy continues, adding: We are not concerned with, nor do we accept, the ongoing negotiations. We will refuse to implement any clauses. On behalf of those resisting the occupation, we say no to peace with the Zionist entity and yes to the resistance rifle, to justice, to all the resistance fighters, the Muslims, and honorable men. To those who say that the balance of power is with the enemy we say: Israel is supported by the United States; the faithful, however, are supported by God Almighty and on our reliance on the blood of the noble men and the souls of martyrs. We are not a people that rely on international resolutions, which are gifts from the arrogant ones. We rely on God's support and the resistance rifle.

Addressing the faithful masses, Shaykh Qasim said: O youths of Islam. Be a wall against Israel and do not forget your slogans: Death to America; death to Israel. This popular plebiscite is clear evidence that our march is being united through the blood of the martyrs. The march and the resistance are continuing. Israel will know the price that it will pay for this noble blood.

In conclusion, his eminence thanked the Islamic republic, the Syrian Arab Republic, and all the Lebanese and Palestinian Islamic and national parties and forces for attending the funeral of the prince of Islamic resistance martyrs.

Junblatt Urges Unity

NC1702141392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Speaking at the funeral procession of His Eminence 'Abbas al-Musawi, Walid Junblatt, Progressive Socialist Party leader, said that the Israeli operation was part of the escalation process in the south. He added that the operation was also part of an Israeli plan to target all nationalist and Islamic leading figures. We need to be cautious and alert, he added, because the operation is within the context of the dead-end of the so-called Washington talks. Unity of ranks and of action must be maintained, he continued, adding that a lesson must be learned from this tragedy because a certain amount of negligence is involved and, he said, we cannot afford to lose someone like al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi every day.

Procession Arrives in Ba'labakk

NC1702153992 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Excerpt] The awesome cortege carrying the corpse of His Eminence Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, prince of the Islamic resistance martyrs, has arrived at Imam 'Ali's Mosque in Ba'labakk, amid hundreds of thousands of people who escorted the exonerated corpse from Beirut and those who assembled to receive it. [passage omitted]

Bodies Lie in State

NC1702163292 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] The masses of Hizballah have attended the funeral of the great martyr of the Islamic resistance. The funeral procession passed through Ba'labakk's streets while the mourners chanted: God is great. We will take revenge on America and Israel.

Leading the funeral procession were Their Eminences Sayyid Hasan Nasrallah; Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli; Shaykh Muhammad Yazbik; Shaykh Muhammad Khatun; Sayyid Ibrahim al-Amin; Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams-al-Din; Shaykh 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan; and Sayyid Husayn al-Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement. Also participating in the funeral were a delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, several respected ulema, political and official figures, and a delegation from Ba'labakk Bishopric.

Mourners who arrived en masse from various parts of Lebanon gathered in and around the Imam 'Ali Mosque, where the body of 'Allamah 'Abbas al-Musawi lies in state, to pay him their last respects. The Imam 'Ali Mosque will be open tonight for all who wish to offer their condolences on the martyrdom of the Hizballah secretary general.

Speaking at a memorial service at the mosque, Shaykh Hasan Nasrallah said: Today and forever, we vow to the great martyr of Islamic resistance, Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, that we will continue to confront God's enemies—the Zionists and their agents—until victory is ours. We tell Israel that it has committed a supreme act of stupidity and that the days to come will prove this.

The body of the great martyr of the Islamic resistance lies in state at the hall of Imam 'Ali Mosque in Ba'labakk. There will be an all-night vigil of prayers and mourning litanies by the family and disciples of the great martyr.

The body of al-Musawi's wife Umm-Yasir lies in state at the al-Zahra' Hall for the same purpose.

A funeral procession will leave the Imam 'Ali Mosque at 1000 tomorrow morning for al-Nabi Shit, the great martyr's home town, where he is to be buried.

Hizballah said that it will accept condolences on the martyrdom of Sayyid al-Musawi for a period of one week at al-Nabi Shit.

Procession Leaves for al-Nabi Shit

NC1802085192 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0830 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] The burial procession of al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi has just left the mosque of Imam 'Ali, may peace be upon him, in Ba'labakk. Hundreds of thousands of the angry masses are taking part in the procession, carrying the bodies of the martyr, hero, and resistance leader and his family. They are shouting slogans of vengeance against Israel and America. The procession is led by a delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Hizballah leadership, partisan and political delegations, humanitarian organizations, and key figures in the area.

Jannati, Fadlallah Speak

NC1802145692 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Excerpts] Thousands of admirers and supporters from the Islamic resistance bade farewell today to his eminence, struggler martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi, in his home town of al-Nabi Shit. [passage omitted]

Ayatollah Jannati delivered a speech on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He praised the Islamic resistance and stressed the need to confront Israeli arrogance, and to work tirelessly to liberate Jerusalem from the usurpers. He noted that the future is certain for the oppressed, whom God has promised will be his heirs. At the end of his speech, Jannati said that the Iranian Muslim people love Sayyid al-Musawi, Hizballah, and all strugglers for God's cause.

Ayatollah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah addressed the crowd. He reviewed the life of the standard bearer of the Islamic resistance, a life which he concluded with the greatest sacrifice man can make. He stressed that the Islamic resistance and the blessed Islamic intifadah are the two beacons in this region, which is living in total darkness.

Fadlallah added: Our problem with the Arab regimes is that they are eager for peace imposed by the United States and Israel in order to win U.S. support and sympathy. Our problem with the Americans is that the more they like you, the more they kill and humiliate you.

Fadlallah said: They say the world is changing and we must pursue a pragmatic policy, which means that we must concede that Israel is the master of the region. He explained that pragmatism is to change the bitter reality through our own capabilities and resources.

Concluding, he said: We have received the message. It is not necessary to answer it emotionally. The answer will come in a while.

Continued Resistance Vowed

NC1802072592 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Shaykh Na'im Qasim, Hizballah deputy secretary general, told our radio that the Zionist enemy thought the march would be affected and would recede as a result of its brutal aggression and assassination of al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi. But the farewell ceremony for the great martyr has proven that the march of Islam, which derives its vigor from the blood of the martyrs, will continue everywhere.

His eminence added that the resistance and jihad can achieve victory. The resistance will continue, and what happened will not affect it, because blood is the fuel that drives it and makes it strong until the banner is handed over to the awaited imam. Therefore, we have to pledge to the great martyr that we will continue the resistance and follow this path, which will lead us to martyrdom.

Shelling, Bombings, Air Raids Reported in South

Defense Ministry Issues Statement

NC1602091392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] The Defense Ministry's Information Department has announced that Israeli aircraft carried out raids on the al-Rashidiyah and 'Ayn al-Hulwah camps shortly after midnight last night. The raids lasted 20 minutes and resulted in civilian casualties and material damage.

The Information Department's statement said that Army units in the area confronted the aircraft with available weapons, contrary to some media reports. Reports that the Army did nothing harm the Army's role in protecting the citizens and camps against Israeli attacks, in accordance with the command's standing and pre-planned decisions.

Four civilians were killed and six others were wounded in the raids on the 'Ayn al-Hulwah and al-Rashidiyah camps. The planes damaged the headquarters of the PLO representative in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp and three residential buildings on the camp's outskirts. In al-Rashidiyah, the aircraft hit and destroyed a PLO headquarters.

Israeli Radio cited Israeli military sources as saying that the Israeli army and Air Force will continue operations against any subversive organization when and where they choose according to security requirements.

Mock Raids, Shelling Reported

NC1702064392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] The towns of al-Sultaniyah and Majdal Silm in the south came under violent Israeli artillery shelling beginning last night and lasting until dawn today. The villages of Kafra and Yatir, bordering the security strip, were

heavily shelled shortly before midnight. At the same time, Israeli aircraft carried out mock raids against the Sidon camps, whose skies were lit by more than 300 flares.

In Israel, a source close to the military command said the Israeli forces in Lebanon and the South Lebanese Army [SLA] have been placed on maximum alert to guard against potential Hizballah attacks following the death of Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi yesterday during an Israeli raid on south Lebanon.

Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri called for a strike today to denounce the assassination. The U.S. State Department issued a statement regretting the killings in Israel and Lebanon in the past two days and urging all parties concerned to exercise self-control.

The Voice of the South Radio [the SLA's mouthpiece] broadcast a statement issued by the Israeli army containing a strongly worded warning to the Lebanese Army, which had earlier announced that it fired at Israeli army positions in the security zone. The statement said that the Israeli army will not remain silent about the Lebanese Army's bombardment and that it will retaliate with the proper means.

The Defense Ministry's Information Department announced that the Army's units in the south retaliated for the Israeli attacks by shelling Israeli army positions and firing antiaircraft guns at the raiding Israeli planes.

Hizballah, Army Clash With Israelis

NC1602202292 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Between 1900 and 1930 today Hizballah fighters clashed with Israeli forces and the South Lebanese Army on the Mlikh, al-Luwayzah, Mlita, 'Arab Salim, and 'Ayn Bu Siwar lines. Machine guns and artillery were used in the fighting.

Our correspondent in the south says that Army units have used field artillery to shell Israeli vehicle concentrations in Tallat al-Radar, al-Rayhan, and Kafr Huna.

Rockets Fired on Northern Israel

NC1702092892 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Excerpt] Our military correspondent has learned that a Lebanese Army commando unit left for the south this morning. Security sources said that these forces intend to provide support and backup to the Army forces stationed in the south and to check Israeli attacks and/or advances. The commando unit crossed the al-Awwali River Bridge at about 1000.

In another development, several Katyusha shells fired from south Lebanon fell in northern Israel. An Israeli military source said that the Israeli and South Lebanese Army artillery retaliated by shelling targets north of the security strip.

The southern suburb of Beirut and some areas in the south observed a strike today to note 'Abbas al-Musawi's assassination. Al-Musawi's body and those of two others were taken to al-Rasul al-'Azam Mosque in Beirut. Wailing and crying party members carried the bodies inside the mosque and some grieving youngsters fainted during preparations for the funeral, which is to take place tomorrow [as heard]. About 100 party members, some armed, chanted God is great, while Koranic verses were being recited at mosques in Beirut and the south. [passage omitted]

Further on Shelling, Rocket Attack

NC1702095192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0900 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Israel has continued its brutal acts of aggression against villages and peaceful civilians in the south. At 0730 today Israeli artillery located on the al-'Abbad and al-Tayyibah hills bombarded Qabrikha, with shells landing in the town's residential areas. An Irish Battalion post inside the town was hit. The bombardment increased to include the southern part of al-Sawwanah and Majdal Silm's main road.

The enemy bombarded Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and the outskirts of Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr with long-range artillery. The bombardment also covered the towns of Kafra and Haris in the western sector, as well as the fringes of al-Sultaniyah, where about 150 artillery shells landed.

This morning an Islamic resistance group fired six Katyusha rockets at enemy positions in the Markaba hills, al-'Udaysah, and the Miskav 'Am settlement in the occupied Palestinian territories. Resistance sources say that the rockets hit their targets. Two more rockets were fired at an enemy vehicle-assembly point in the al-Tayyibah triangle.

The situation in the region is tense and a mass exodus of residents of the shelled towns has been observed.

Situation in South at 'Boiling Point'

NC1702171292 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] The situation in the south today reached a boiling point following Israel's assassination of Hizballah Secretary General 'Allamah 'Abbas al-Musawi. A number of villages and towns in the south have been coming under shelling since last night. The Lebanese Army has been placed on alert. Likewise, the Israeli troops inside and along the border zone have been placed on alert, and more ambushes have been set up.

'Resistance,' Israelis Trade Shellings

NC1802094692 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Security sources in the south have reported that 165 artillery shells and Katyusha rounds have been traded by the Islamic resistance and the Israeli Army since last night.

The sources added that 65 Katyusha rounds have fallen on the security belt zone and inside Galilee since this morning. The security sources said that 100 Israeli artillery shells landed on areas in Iqlim al-Tuffah and western al-Biqa'.

The same sources pointed out that Israeli gunboats last night opened machine-gun fire at al-Rashidiyah camp. There have been no reports of casualties.

Israelis Conduct Mock Raids Over Tyre

NC1802100892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Our correspondent in Tyre has reported that the explosion heard in Tyre at approximately 1100 today was caused by Israeli warplanes flying at low altitudes over al-Rashidiyah camp and breaking the sound barrier.

The warplanes conducted mock raids over the camp.

Israeli Artillery Reported in Marj 'Uyun

NC1802122892 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Our correspondent in Tyre, citing security sources, has reported that Israeli troops this morning brought a number of large-caliber artillery batteries into the (Sahl al-Khiyam) area in Marj 'Uyun District. Our correspondent also reported that the villages of Khirbat Silm, Majdal Silm, Shaqra, Qabrikha, and Tulin came under artillery fire this morning, leaving one wounded in the village of Shaqra'.

Israeli and South Lebanese Army troops are reinforcing their positions along the line opposite al-Nabatiyah.

Israeli Helicopters Raid Villages

NC1802125892 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1250 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Text] Dear listeners: We have just received the following report from the news desk:

Enemy helicopters raided Jibshit and Zawtar a short time ago. Enemy aircraft fired a number of guided missiles. The two villages are also coming under shell fire.

Attack Reportedly Wounds Fatah Official

NC1702103592 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] An explosion occurred on the road leading to al-Amirkan circle in Harat Sayda, near the Lebanese Army's Muhammad Zughayb Barracks, at about 1030 today. Preliminary reports indicate that the blast was an attack against Fatah official 'Atif Abu-Shaqra, who lost a leg and sustained other injuries in the attack. A number of other people were also wounded.

Government Accepts Invitation To Washington Talks

NC1602204692 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his delegation, composed of Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general and head of the Lebanese delegation to the peace negotiations, returned to Beirut from Damascus at 2100 today.

The Presidential Office's Media Affairs Department issued the following statement:

At the invitation of his excellency, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, President Ilyas al-Hirawi visited Damascus this morning at the head of a delegation composed of Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general. After his reception at al-Mazzah Airport, where Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad was joined by Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', ministers, and officials, the two presidents proceeded to the Presidential Palace in al-Muhajirin, where they held three rounds of talks. During these talks, a comprehensive assessment was made of the stages the peace conference has passed through since it began in Madrid and the political developments that have accompanied it.

In light of contacts with a number of the parties concerned with this conference, particularly the United States; and based on their interpretation of the round that will be held on 24 February, and the contents of previous letters, the Lebanese and Syrian presidents agreed to give the efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace through the peace conference a new chance, to enable the parties concerned to apply the principles the conference is based upon. The two presidents decided to accept the invitation to attend the next round of talks in Washington.

Killing 'Will Not Dissuade Lebanon'

NC1702175192 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has described the assassination of al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi as a tragic and an absolutely unjustified act. He added that the entry of Israeli helicopters into Lebanon and their pursuit of civilian motorcades constitute a very serious and

qualitative turn in the current political course. He called on the UN and the United States to stop searching for the fate of human rights and freedoms in the world, and instead take a good look at what Israel is doing as a first step toward eliminating terrorism.

Buwayz stressed that the Israeli aggression will not dissuade Lebanon from taking part in the 24 February talks in Washington. He expressed his belief that the purpose of the Israeli provocation is to see Lebanon absent from the negotiations, which embarrass Israel.

Lebanese President al-Hirawi Arrives in Damascus

Received by al-Asad

JN1602140492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi arrived in Damascus at 1130 today. He was received at the airport by President Hafiz al-Asad. Also present at the airport were Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. After President al-Hirawi shook hands with the ministers who received him, President Hafiz al-Asad and his great guest headed to the Presidential Palace in an official motorcade.

President al-Hirawi was accompanied by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general.

President Hafiz al-Asad and President Ilyas al-Hirawi held a meeting at the Presidential Palace at 1200 today. It was attended by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' on the Syrian side. On the Lebanese side, the meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Suhayl Shammas, Foreign Ministry secretary general.

Leaders Agree on Attending Talks

JN1602194492 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi of Lebanon held a meeting at the Presidential Palace at 1200 today. [passage omitted]

The two presidents held a closed a meeting, followed by a meeting in which members of the two delegations took part. These meetings were interrupted by a working lunch hosted by his excellency the president.

During these meetings, the two presidents reviewed and evaluated the bilateral talks held in Madrid and Washington, as well as the obstacles Israel has placed in the path of peace.

They also discussed the U.S. invitation to a new round of bilateral talks, to be held in Washington on 24 February, and the climate surrounding this invitation. Agreement was reached on accepting the invitation to the new round of bilateral talks in light of the assurances the United States offered in its previous and recent letters. Explanations will be provided to the United States concerning the views of both Syria and Lebanon.

His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi and his delegation left at 1915 today at the conclusion of their brief visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad led those who saw the Lebanese president off at the airport. Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, and a number of cabinet ministers were also on hand to see the Lebanese president off. [passage omitted]

Further on Decision To Attend

JN1602175892 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1720 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Dispatch from 'Abdallah al-Dardari in Damascus]

[Text] Syria and Lebanon have agreed to participate in the forthcoming session of the bilateral negotiations, to submit explanations to the cosponsors of the conference on how they view these talks, and to give the peace process another chance to succeed.

This came during the Syrian-Lebanese summit, held in Damascus between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi. After seven hours of talks, Syrian Presidential Spokesman Jubran Kuriyah announced that the two sides assessed the stages of the negotiations and the political atmosphere accompanying the U.S. invitation to a new round of negotiations, to be held in Washington on 24 February. The spokesman added: In light of contacts with several of the parties concerned with the peace conference, particularly the United States, and on the basis of the U.S. interpretation of this round and the contents of its previous and current letters to the parties, it was agreed to give the efforts to attain a just and comprehensive peace through the peace conference a new chance, to enable concerned international and regional parties to implement the foundations on which the peace conference has been convened and from which it has proceeded.

The spokesman added that this will take place by accepting the invitation to resume the talks in Washington on 24 February, while offering some explanations to the co-sponsors of the conference on how Syria and Lebanon view these talks.

Editorials Cited on Israeli Raid, Peace Process

'Barbaric Raids' Denounced

JN1702105692 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0835 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Damascus, 17 Feb (SANA)—In today's editorial, entitled "How To Safeguard Our Pan-Arab Rights," AL-BA'TH says that with the approach of the next round of negotiations, the Zionists committed a series of barbaric raids on villages and peaceful people in south Lebanon, thus affirming their policy against peace and all that is related to the concepts and fundamentals of peace. This also clearly explains the enemy's motives behind procrastination, maneuvering, and evasion of the essence of the peace process.

The paper adds that Israel wants to maintain the formalities of peace while launching terrorist and criminal acts everywhere in the occupied Arab territories. It is important, therefore, to confront and foil the Israeli game and remind the international community of its responsibilities.

AL-BA'TH stresses the need to forge an Arab stand based on a comprehensive vision of the dimensions of the Israeli stance, through coordination and consultation between the various parties directly concerned with the peace process on the one hand, and the parties and countries that are able to push the peace process forward on the other.

AL-BA'TH concludes by stressing the importance of pressuring Israel into complying with the peace efforts and abandoning its adherence to formalities. This responsibility rests primarily with the peace conference cosponsors, the paper adds.

'Feverish' Attempt 'To Disrupt' Talks

JN1702130392 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0845 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Damascus, 17 Feb (SANA)—TISHRIN has called on the Arabs to adopt a unified stand to confront the Zionist aggressor and foil the moves to disrupt the international effort to achieve peace in the region.

In an editorial today, the paper considers the barbaric Zionist attacks in southern Lebanon part of the feverish Israeli endeavor to disrupt the peace process, blow up the pillars of the U.S. initiative, and shatter the credibility of the United States and the international community in the Middle East.

The paper says that since calling for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal at the Madrid conference, in accordance with UN Resolution 425, Lebanon has been exposed to great pressure, represented by a series of ground and air bombardments as well as threats to invade the entire southern region. These aggressive acts, which targeted both the Lebanese and Palestinians, are part of an intimidation and heavy stick policy aimed at forcing the Lebanese to stop demanding the return of their occupied territory and the dismantling of Haddad's agent's mini-state.

Turning to the threats by Uri Lubrani, coordinator of Israeli operations in Lebanon, to attack southern Lebanon if the national resistance continued, the paper says: Continued occupation generates resistance, while withdrawal would end resistance.

TISHRIN stresses that the killing of three Zionist soldiers by resistance men in the occupied Palestinian territories is not a reason for aggression against Lebanon, but is an additional excuse for repeated attacks by Israel. The paper says: The raids would have taken place even without an excuse.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: We demand that all Arabs confront the Zionist aggressor with a unified rank, unified stand, and unified word, so that the aggressor will find no way to infiltrate and disrupt the efforts being made to achieve peace in the region.

U.S. Urged To 'Curb' Israel

JN1802082892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 18 Feb 92

[Press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH says that Israel continues to adhere to its aggressive course rejecting international will, as evidenced by its deliberate acts of aggression prior to the start of each round of negotiations.

Under the headline "Israel is Preparing for Aggression To Destroy the Peace Process," AL-BA'TH adds: Israel has moved from the phase of timid evasion of the peace process to the phase of destroying this process, using the means and methods it has grown accustomed to in its aggression. Because this thinking currently prevails in official and partisan Israeli quarters, evasion of peace must lead to war. Indeed, this was emphasized by Israeli Minister Ari'el Sharon.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Israel's refusal to discuss the core of the regional conflict—namely, Palestinian rights and the Israeli occupation of Arab lands—provides sufficient evidence of the intentions of Shamir, Sharon, and Arens, which are evil and run counter to the will of the world community.

For its part, the newspaper TISHRIN, in its editorial on the new round of negotiations due to be held in Washington, indicates that the Israeli objective has remained unchanged. Under the headline "The Washington Round of Talks and the Unchanging Israeli Objective," TISHRIN says: When it endorsed the peace process, Damascus did not do so out of a belief that it might be possible to change Israel's anti-peace intentions. Rather, it did so when it saw a serious and constructive U.S. position, reflected in subscribing to international resolutions which provide for the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force. The fact that Damascus accepted the U.S. Administration's invitation to attend the next round of bilateral negotiations in Washington shows Syria's desire to render the U.S. peace initiative a success and also to enable the U.S. Administration to play a more effective role in pushing the peace process forward.

TISHRIN adds: Maintaining silence over Israeli intransigence will encourage the Shamir government to step up its anti-peace position, and will consequently kill any hope for a successful peace process. If the U.S. Administration is really concerned about peace, then we ask right now that it take the necessary measures to curb the aggressive Israeli outbursts and make Israel walk the path of peace.

Iran

ECO Summit Addresses International Developments

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Opening Speech

LD1602194692 Tehran IRNA in English 1411 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani today announced that Iran has a "positive assessment" of the new developments in international relations. These developments, he said, provide better conditions for the "progress and transcendence" of millions of people in the human community.

Addressing the first summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) here, President Rafsanjani said, however that "we believe that humanitarian principles, particularly justice and equity for all nations must form the basis of the new international relations."

"The collapse of communism and upheavals besetting the political, economic, and social infrastructures of most countries with centralized economies, the end of the bipolar era, developments in international relations and the independence of the former Soviet republics, including the Muslim ones rank among the momentous global changes bringing the world face to face with a number of redoubtable and significant developments," the president stated.

Turkish President Turgut Ozal, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and heads of state and high-ranking officials from the newly independent republics north of Iran are attending the two-day summit.

The president said "viable stability and peace are of great importance to our strategic and sensitive region. This important goal can only be achieved through the extensive collaboration of all regional countries."

He expressed hope that the Afghan issue, "after years of hardship incurred by the people of this Islamic country," will be settled as soon as possible.

He said "today, the Palestinian issue continues to be a deep wound in the heart of the world's Muslim ummah. (Iran) hopes that the valiant and courageous Palestinian people will regain their rights, and return to their homeland.

"We believe that the only way for the realization of this sacred goal is the Islamic uprising of the Palestinian people. We reiterate our serious support for all Muslims living throughout the world particularly Muslim minorities.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran firmly believes that nuclear, biological and chemical weapons as well as weapons of mass destruction in the arsenals of great powers, that have left behind bitter experiences for mankind, must be completely destroyed, thus paving the way for the establishment of a permanent peace in the world."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said in view of the important fact that ECO must mobilize all its resources and capabilities to implement the plans, "I ask the secretariat to seriously implement the plans, and call on the member states to form a follow-up committee for the fulfillment of this important goal."

The Caucasus Republic of Azerbaijan, and the Central Asian republics of Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are to be admitted as new members of the ECO, an economic grouping founded by Iran, Turkey and Pakistan.

It was set up in 1985 and was formerly known as the Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD) which was founded in 1964, with the purpose to provide economic, technical and cultural cooperation among the three Muslim states.

The presidents of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan, the parliament speaker of Uzbekistan, the deputy premiers of Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan and the foreign minister of Tajikistan are also attending the summit. At the opening ceremony, the Tehran based diplomatic corps was also present.

Further in his address, President Rafsanjani said that at a time when regional and international cooperation is emerging as a necessity, the ECO, "as a clear example of our will to cooperate in this sensitive region of the world," has become more important than ever.

He expressed confidence that the Tehran summit will prepare practical and extensive ground works in various areas of economic, trade, agricultural, industrial, scientific, cultural, educational, technical, transportation, and communication cooperation.

Congratulating the newly-independent Muslim republics of Central Asia and the Caucasus for joining the ECO, Rafsanjani said that the organization's expansion will further strengthen and upgrade ECO's capabilities.

"We are ready to receive the new members to the existing group of ECO countries," he said, adding that he was confident that Ozal and Sharif agreed with him on this point.

Commensurate with political developments in international relations, President Rafsanjani said "we are also witnessing extensive changes in the international economic order."

In this respect, he added, due attention must be paid by the ECO members to the constructive and active role that can be played by the organization in bringing about a balanced economic order and bridging the gap between the North and the South.

Velayati on Closed-Door Session

LD1602230692 Tehran IRNA in English 1912 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 16, IRNA—Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, the original member states of the Economic

Cooperation Organization (ECO) have expressed hope that Afghanistan too would join the regional grouping after the settlement of the crisis the Islamic state is facing, said Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here today.

"This depends on the people of Afghanistan. We hope to see the final settlement of the Afghan question based on the wish of the majority of the people of the Muslim state so that Afghanistan too could join our regional cooperation as an active member," he told IRNA in an interview at the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS) where the first ECO summit was inaugurated by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran.

Turkish President Turgut Ozal and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif are also here for the two-day summit, the first since it was established in 1985.

In his speech, President Rafsanjani expressed hope that the Afghan issue, "after years of hardship incurred by the people of this Islamic country," will be settled as soon as possible. In this regard, he added, "we will do everything in our ability, notably cooperation with the United Nations, to find a solution to this crisis."

ECO, formerly called Regional Cooperation for Development (RCD), is an intergovernmental regional organization established in 1964 by Iran, Pakistan and Turkey for the purpose of providing economic, technical and cultural cooperation among themselves. Broadly speaking, its objectives are to expand mutual trade, promote conditions for sustained economic growth in the region, and to consolidate cultural and spiritual affinities.

The organization comprises a ministerial council which is the highest policy making organ, a regional planning council to coordinate national plans with ECO's objectives, and a Council of Deputies. The activities of the organization are conducted by seven technical committees.

The second meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers held in Ankara (Feb. 5-6) agreed to the admission of three newly-independent Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union. They are Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The presidents of Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan and the parliament speaker of Uzbekistan are attending the ECO summit.

Velayati said in the interview that the ECO foreign ministers will meet Monday afternoon hours before the closing session of the summit to study new membership requests from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. The latter is represented by vice-premier and the former by foreign minister at the Tehran summit. He also said that Kazakhstan which has sent its vice-premier to the summit, has requested observer status.

After opening statements by President Rafsanjani and President Ozal, the session continued its work behind closed doors under the chairmanship of Rafsanjani.

On the topics raised at the closed-door session, Velayati told IRNA that various delegates, including the presidents of Turkey, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan, as well as the prime minister of Pakistan and parliament speaker of Uzbekistan expressed their views about the future of ECO and the regional and international developments in view of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

"They all expressed their full desire to further strengthen ECO and the new members were happy over joining the organization," Velayati said. He said President Hashemi-Rafsanjani promised and assured the member states that Iran will do its best to consolidate ECO and expand cooperation among its members.

The summit will wind up Monday evening after hearing two reports, one by the Council of Ministers on admission of new members and one by experts committee on the final declaration whose draft has been prepared by Iran as the host country. Delegates from Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan have also asked for the floor before the closing session.

Meanwhile, President Rafsanjani led evening prayers at the IPIS building with President Ozal, Prime Minister Sharif and leaders of the newly-independent republics attending.

President Meets Caspian Area Leaders

LD1702135992 Tehran IRNA in English 1158 GMT 17 Feb 92

Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—The first session of five countries in the Caspian Sea region was held here Monday on the second day of the summit meeting of the heads of state of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Opening the session, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that countries in the Caspian Sea region could establish cooperation in various fields including utilization of marine resources.

He described presence of heads of state and high-ranking officials of the Caspian regional countries in ECO summit meeting as a "suitable opportunity" to pave the way for the expansion of ties among the participating countries.

In a series of meetings with the participants, President Rafsanjani met and held talks with his counterpart from Azerbaijan Republic Ayaz Mutalibov.

Briefing the president on the latest developments in Karabakh, an area of dispute between the two republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia, Mutalibov called for Iran's mediation in this connection.

He also pointed to matters of mutual interest and common cultural and religious backgrounds between the two countries and called for further expansion of bilateral ties.

Expressing Iran's interest in sincere cooperation with the Republic of Azerbaijan, President Rafsanjani regretted

the recent bloody clashes in Karabakh and hoped that through Iran's mediation peace will return to the region soon.

After a meeting with his counterpart from Turkmenistan republic Separmurad Niyazov, President Rafsanjani told reporters, "It is like a family reunion. We are not strangers."

Niyazov expressed his country's interest in collective utilization of resources of ECO member states and said this will be beneficial to all.

He said his talks with President Rafsanjani were "fruitful" and promised a bright prospect for bilateral cooperation.

President Rafsanjani and Deputy Prime Minister of Kazakhstan Republic Bayknev met today in which expansion of economic and diplomatic relations was discussed.

The Kazakh official called for bilateral economic cooperation especially in the field of oil and noted that an advanced transportation system will boost economic cooperation among the neighbouring states and the newly-independent republics.

In a separate meeting with President Rafsanjani, Deputy Prime Minister of Kyrghyzstan Republic Erkibayev underlined his people's enthusiasm in revival of the Islamic culture.

He announced his country's readiness to employ Iran's experience and called for the admission of the republic in ECO.

Another guest of the summit, head of Uzbekistan's Supreme Council Yuldashov Shokat met with President Rafsanjani this morning.

The president told reporters that avenues were explored for bilateral cooperation especially in technical fields for which official talks are to be held in future.

Meanwhile, Yuldashov told IRNA that the two countries must resume the ties cut off in the past 70 years.

He described President Rafsanjani as "one of the greatest world personalities" and said he was proud to meet him.

The Uzbek official expressed hope that through the assistance of ECO his country will be reconstructed.

ECO Admits Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan

LD1702153392 Tehran IRNA in English 1307 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—The republics of Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan were admitted as new members of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) today.

The decision to admit the two newly-independent republics of the former Soviet Union was taken by the Council of Ministers of ECO here this afternoon.

The two republics had formally requested membership at the regional organization. Formerly the republics of Azerbaijan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan had applied for membership, and then admission was approved by the second meeting of the ECO Council of Ministers, held in Ankara, Turkey, earlier this month.

Kyrgyzstan is represented by Deputy Prime Minister Erkibayef and Tajikistan by Minister of Foreign Affairs Lakim Kayumov at the ECO summit here.

The summit which was inaugurated by President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani Sunday is to wind up by issuing a declaration today.

Caspian Sea Pact Established

LD1702134292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] The first five-member meeting of the heads of state and represenatatives of the Caspian Sea littoral states comprising the Islamic Republic of Iran and the republics of Russia, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan, were held on the premises of Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] in Tehran this morning.

At the close of the session, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced: The session decided to set up a Caspian Sea littoral states' cooperation organization, and its grounds for cooperation will be stipulated in the organization's articles of association. He added: This organization is unrelated to the ECO and will operate independently and internationally.

Azeri President Ayaz Mutalibov said: We support Mr. Hashemi- Rafsanjani's proposal to form this organization, and all the Caspian Sea littoral states will participate in it.

Turkmen President Separmurad Niyazov expressed his joy at the formation of this organization, terming its future activities and role as very important and beneficial.

On the basis of an agreement reached by the participant countries, the organization's headquarters will be based in Tehran.

Caspian Pact To Draft Constitution

LD1702162592 Tehran IRNA in English 1442 GMT 17 Feb 92

[TYext] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—The first meeting of Caspian Sea littoral states held here today drafted a letter of understanding for setting up an organisation of the five countries bordering the world's largest inland sea.

The proposal to set up an organisation was made by President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani who chaired the meeting, and was warmly welcomed by all participants.

It was also decided that the Caspian littoral states would meet again in Tehran to prepare a constitution for the proposed organisation.

The five countries having a coastline on the almost oblong Caspian are Iran on the south, Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan on the east, the Russian Federation on the north and north-west and the Azerbaijan republic on the west.

Velayati Holds News Conference

LD1702184892 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati Monday said the five Caspian Sea littoral states have decided to set up an organization so as to better handle the geo- political situation of the region.

Velayati, addressing a press conference, said representatives of the five countries are to meet next month in Tehran to draft a constitution for the proposed organization and present it at the future meeting of the heads of those states for final approval.

The five countries bordering the world's largest inland sea are Iran, the Azerbaijan Republic, the Russian Federation, Turkmenia and Kazakhstan.

According to the Iranian foreign minister, economic and trade activities of the organization will focus on cooperation between the Caspian littoral states in the fields of shipping, fisheries, protection of the environment and related issues.

The heads of state and senior officials of the five countries along with the president of Turkey and the prime minister of Pakistan are in Tehran for the summit meet of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO), which ended work here today.

Two of the Caspian states, Azerbaijan and Turkmenia, along with two other Central Asian Muslim Republics of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan were admitted to the ECO during the summit by the founding members, Iran, Turkey and Pakistan.

On decrease of preferential tariffs between ECO member states, Velayati said the foreign ministers of ECO members had already agreed to a 10 percent reduction in preferential tariffs in their meeting in Ankara last week.

Referring to problems existing in Tehran-Ankara ties, he said "the presidents of Iran and Turkey have held negotiations in this regard and Mr. (Turgut) Ozal has stressed that the ultimate view of his and the Turkish prime minister is that these problems should be removed as soon as possible, and have promised to exert necessary efforts."

On the proposed laying of a gas pipeline via Turkey, which was dicussed by the two presidents, Velayati said in Iran's opinion there was no ambigious point in the construction of the pipeline. The two countries' experts, he added should finalize the project.

Azerbaijani Leader on Iranian Mediation

NC1702090692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Speaking on the sidelines of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] summit in Tehran, Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov said that Iran will mediate in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict over the Karabakh region due to its geographic position and its cultural-social relations with the two republics.

Mutalibov noted that Azerbaijan has formed an Army and will strengthen it. He added that if the crisis exacerbates, Azerbaijan will ask for assistance from friendly countries.

The Azerbaijani president pointed out that he is extremely happy at the expansion of close relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and that he will strive to continue and consolidate these relations.

President, Tajik Foreign Minister Meet

LD1702214192 Tehran IRNA in English 1800 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—Foreign Affairs Minister of Tajikistan, Lakim Kayumov, briefed President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the latest developments in the newly-independent Central Asian republic.

Kayumov in the meeting called for cultural, political and economic cooperation between Tehran and Dushanbe, and conveyed to Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani the keenness of the Tajikistan president to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The president welcomed his Tajik counterpart's intention to visit Iran, and wished success for the Muslim republic in tackling its problems.

Kayumov is here for the first summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) ended its two-day meet today, by accepting as new members Tajikistan and four other Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union—Azerbaijan, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Iran and Tajikistan which speak the same language, Persian, are bound by common cultural, religious and historical ties.

Karrubi, Uzbek Counterpart Confer

LD1702213792 Tehran IRNA in English 1929 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—Head of Uzbekistan's Supreme Council Yuldashov Shokat told Speaker of

Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parlimanet) Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi here today that Uzbekistan is interested in establishing relations between the parliaments of the two countries.

The Uzbek official who is here for the summit meet of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) also urged extensive preliminary studies for establishing air way services between Tehran and Tashkent as well as surface transportation between Iran and Uzbekistan.

Yudashov suggested that the two countries evaluate the formation of joint ventures, and the establishment of trade bilateral ties.

Hoj. Karrubi observed that the care should be taken by all regional countries against any probable effort by Washington to gain a foothold in the new Asian republics in the wake of the recent collapse of communism.

He said Iran thinks only of establishing and promoting ties with the Muslim countries and the Third World, and wishes that those countries help one another in their efforts for minimizing dependence on others.

The speaker also dplored the dual approach of the Western powers with the newly independent republics in Central Asia to the detriment of the Muslim republics.

He also voiced the support of Iran's Islamic Consultative Assembly for broadening relations with the Uzbek Republic.

Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan Seek Oil Ties

LD1702223892 Tehran IRNA in English 1901 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—Visiting Vice Prime Minister of Turkmenistan Ata Charyyev called on Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh today and sought Iran's help for building a motor oil plant and refinery in the newly-independent republic on Iran's northeastern borders.

He also expressed the interest of his country to buy natural gas from Iran.

Aqazadeh agreed to delegate a group of Iranian consultants to Ashkhabad, the Turkmen capital, for a feasibility study of mutual cooperation in the gas industry, and the building of a motor-oil refining plant in that republic.

In a separate meeting with the Iranian oil minister, the deputy prime minister of Kazakhstan, Baykenov, requested Iran's help in building an oil refinery as well as conduct oil exploration projects on the oilfields of that Central Asian country.

Aqazadeh assured the Kazakh official that his ministry would shortly commission an experts team to Kazakhstan to explore prospects for cooperation in oil and related industries.

The Turkmen and Kazakh officials are here as part of their respective countries' delegations for the two-day Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO) summit, which wound up this evening.

ECO Summit Ends; Communique Issued

LD1702181692 Tehran IRNA in English 1559 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—The first summit of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) ended its 2-day meet here today with a communique read by foreign minister of the host country, 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The summit which saw the expansion of the organisation—set up by Iran, Turkey and Pakistan in 1985—to include five of the Muslim republics of the former Soviet Union was held in an "atmosphere full of the spirit of brotherhood and friendship."

Besides Iranian President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani, the summit was attended by Turkish President Turgut Ozal, Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Azerbaijani President Ayaz Mutalibov, Turkmenia President Safar Murad Niyazov, Uzbekistan's Chairman of the High Council Yoldashov Shokat Mohyedinouvich, Kyrgyzstan Deputy Prime Minister Erkibayov, Tajikistan Foreign Minister Lakim Kayumov. Deputy premier of another Central Asia republic, Kazakhstan, Bikenov also attended the meeting on special invitation.

The communique said that "heads of member states and governments recalling the political and economic developments in the world and especially in the region which is the result of the collapse of communism, emphasized the realization of ECO economic and infra- structural goals with due regard to the ever-increasing role of the economy in world policy-making. They expressed hope that the ECO member countries can take substantial steps aimed at strengthening of his organization.

"The heads of ECO member states and governments expressed pleasure with the admission of the governments of the Republics of Azerbaijan, Turkmenia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan as the new members of ECO.

"The leaders welcomed the recommendation of the council of deputies to allow the Turkish Muslim community in Cyprus to participate in the economic, cultural and technical activities of ECO, without prejudice to the respective positions of the member states and the ongoing efforts for a final settlement of the question of Cyprus in accordance with the relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

"The modalities of their participation will be worked out by the ECO Secretariat with the help of experts of the three founding member states.

"The heads of states and governments agreed that peace and security in the region is a prerequisite for economic

development. Taking note of the deteriorating situation in Jammu and Kashmir, they stressed the need for resspect of the human rights of the Kashmiri people and for settling issue expeditiously in accordance with the wishes of the people of Kashmir, which are yet to be ascertained under long-standing commitments.

"They called for the return of peace in Afghanistan and offered full support to efforts for an early political settlement acceptable to the Afghan people.

"They called for an equitable and durable settlement of the Palestine question based on the restoration of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

"The heads of states, and governments agreed that, following the successful enforcement of the protocol on preferential tariffs, efforts should continue towards the ultimate elimination of all tariffs and non-tariff barriers together with all subsidies on exports, at the earliest.

"The heads of member states and governments reviewing previous ECO activities and progress made, gave the assurance that the joint efforts of the member countries will provide new possibilities and open new doors to them. To this end, they underlined the importance of the development of cooperation in transport and communication, energy, industrial and agricultural areas and recommended the council of ministers to take necessary executive decisions for its materialization.

"They envisaged in the ECO the creation of a modern and efficient infrastructure linking not only the member states of the organisation but also providing them access to other areas of the world. The ECO would thus be in a position to forge stronger economic and commercial ties not only among the member states but also with the outside world, in a spirit of harmony and mutual benefit.

"The participating heads of states and governments expressed their gratitude to the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani and to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality extended to them during their stay in Tehran."

ECO as Political Entity Ruled Out

LD1702230192 Tehran IRNA in English 2058 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani here Monday ruled out the likelihood of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) turning into a politico-security alliance in the future.

"According to the regulations of ECO, it is an economic organization which can also include eductional and cultural activities," he said, "but it cannot be a political or security organization." He said if the organization intended to turn to this direction its articles of association must be totally changed.

The president was speaking at a press conference held after the end of a two day summit meet of the Economic Cooperation Organization attended by heads of states and senior officials from Iran, Turkey, Pakistan (original ECO members), and Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (new members). Kazakhstan also attended as an observer because it has not formally apllied to join ECO.

On his recent meeting with Tehran-based foreign diplomats where he had said there were some "ambiguities" on Iran's diplomacy and asked what he exactly meant by these "ambiguities," the president replied:

"The (Western) propaganda loudspeakers have recently been trying to make Iran's neighbors and even countries lying farther away from us think that we intend to interfere in their internal affairs, for instance in the case of Algeria, Sudan or Persian Gulf littoral states and the likes.

"I explained (to the foreign diplomats) that our policy is clear. There is nothing wrong with the points they try to say are ambigous. Part of this propaganda was related to Iran's attitudes towards the United Nations and international regulations. There was also propaganda claiming that Iran was after nuclear weapons which again I made clear."

On a protocol signed by the ministers of Iran, Turkey and Pakistan at the closing session of the Tehran summit, the president said it was about the reduction of tariffs on listed goods to encourage commodity exchanges between member states.

Of course, Rafsanjani pointed out, the new members of the economic cooperation organization were also entitled to these regulations.

Asked whether Iran had a specific plan for mediation between Azerbaijan and Armenia, now at loggerheads over disputed Nagorno- Karabakh enclave within Azerbaijani territory, the president replied that it as too early to comment. "Firstly," he added, "we should talk with both sides and then offer our plan...Even if we have a plan we cannot disclose it now."

About Iran's bcoming more active within ECO and whether this could be part of its long term strategy, Rafsanjani replied:

"As you can see on the map Iran links the ECO member states with one another. Cooperation should be certainly carried out via Iran. For links between the north and the south, the east and the west, these countries and Europe, Europe and Asia everything should cross Iran—oil and gas pipelines, railways, commnication routes and international airports."

In reply to another question, the president said ECO has yet to specify whether the organization belongs solely to Muslim countries or non-Muslim states can also join it.

He added that there was a request from Romania for cooperation with eco but it was not taken seriously because it fell short of membership request. "If we receive other requests from non-Muslim countries in the future we will consider them seriously," the president concluded.

Killing of Lebanese Hizballah Leader Condemned

Khamene'i, Rafsanjani, Majles Statements

LD1702120192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Following the martyrdom of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, the secretary general of Lebanon's Hizballah, at the hands of the agents of the crimianl Zionist regime, a message has been issued by his Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution. The text of the message of the guardian of the Muslims is as follows:

Among the believers are men who were true to their covenant with God, some of them have fulfilled their vow by death, and some are still awaiting, and they have not changed in the least. [Koranic verse] I received with great sorrow and grief the news of the cruel martyrdom of the tireless combatant cleric and the selfless leader of Lebanon's Hizballah, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi and his wife and young child at the criminal hands of the Zionist regime. May God's mercy be upon that lofty, brave, faithful and brave cleric, and the curses and damnation of God and the people on the executioner and bloodthirsty Zionists who do not refrain from any crime toward the realization of their evil and aggressive aims; and on their evil and arrogant supporters, who, by turning a blind eye to that regime's great crimes and by assisting their continuation, reveal ever more their inhuman and evil face and do not turn away from any conspiracy or treachery against justice-seeking Muslims.

The unjustly shed blood of that dear eminent martyr and the innocent people accompanying him will make the justice-seeking struggle of the people of Lebanon and Palestine against the Zionist occupiers more serious and more profound. That eminent cleric, who combined theory with action, words with truth, and selflessness with wisdom, was martyred for the sake of the attainment of his sacred and divine goal, which was the defense of Islam and struggle against oppression and aggression. He has achieved eternal happiness. His path will be continued by his friends and fellow trenchholders and the oppressed nations of Lebanon and Palestine.

Let Israel and America know that such crimes will not be able to pave the way for their cruel hegemony or frighten the nations who have, throughout many years, suffered from their [Israel and America's] cruelty and mischief.

I hereby convey my congratulations and condolences to the Lebanese nation and to the pure and dear youth of Hizballah and to its leaders and especially to that eminent martyr's family, friends and devotees on the occasion of that pride-inspiring martyrdom, which was God's reward for that faithful and selfless human being's ceaseless jihad. I pray that God's peace and blessings will be upon him. Peace be upon pious slaves of God.

[Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, 13 Sha'ban 1412, corresponding to 28 Bahman 1370 [17 February 92]

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, too, in a message expressed his felicitations and condolences on the brutal martyrdom of Allamah Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi. The message states: Verily we come from God and to Him we return. I express my felicitations and condolences to His Holiness the Lord of the Age [Vali-e Asr—the 12th Shiite "hidden imam"], the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution, the Islamic ummah and the world's freedom-seekers, especially the oppressed and God-fearing Lebanese nation, on the brutal martyrdom of the resistant cleric martyr Hojjat-ol Eslam val- Moslemin Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, the secretary general of Lebanon's revolutionary Hizballah Movement,who was martyred in the hand of the racist and terrorist Zionist regime, for pursuing Islamic aspirations and supporting the rights of the oppressed Palestinians and the Lebanese nation. Without doubt, this horrific crime will serve as another testimony against those who falsely claim to be supporters of human rights, and not only will it fail to halt the continuation of the just struggles of the dear Palestinian and Lebanese Muslims, but it will intensify and deepen the struggles and attempts against oppression and aggression.

[Tehran IRNA in English at 1033 GMt on 17 February, in a Tehran- datelined item, notes: "The Majles Foreign Commission issued a statement here Monday condoling the Lebanese Muslim nation on martyrdom of Lebanese Hizballah leader Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abbas al- Musawi in a Zionist attack in South Lebanon Sunday. "The Zionist enemy, with whom certain regional Muslims regretabbly shoulder the burden of humiliating compromise, martyred the beloved ones of the Muslim world yet adding another black page to its shameful history which is filled with crimes...," said the statement. Al-Musawi, his wife and a six-year-old son were martyred in Israeli air attack on his car near the village of Tuffahta in South Lebanon Sunday.

The Majles Foreign Commission extended condolences to al-Musawi's relatives, the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i, members of the Lebanese Hizballah and the Islamic resistance forces. The statement voiced conviction that the martyrdom of al-Musawi and others for the cause of the holy Qods will guarantee the final victory of Muslims over the Zionist enemy and liberation of the holy Qods."]

Hizballah Radio Carries Khamene'i Statement

NC1702151492 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 1150 GMT 17 Feb 92

["Statement" by Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, marking the "martyrdom" of Hizballah Secretary General 'Abbas al-Musawi—read by announcer; recorded]

[Text] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful; Among the believers are men who were true to their convent with God, some of them have fulfilled their vow by death, and some are still awaiting, and they have not changed in the least. [Koranic verse]

I received with great sorrow and grief the news of the martyrdom of Hojjat Ol-Eslam al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, the tireless 'allamah, mujahid, and selfless leader of Lebanon's Hizballah; and his wife and son following the cowardly and barbaric raid of the Zionist occupiers; a man who has earned the exalted rank of martyrdom.

The Guardian of the Muslims' cause added: May God's mercy be upon that heavenly, brave, faithful, and conscientious 'alim and may the curses of God and his followers be upon all the criminal Zionists, who do not refrain from committing the most abominable crimes in order to achieve their goals, promote their corrupt acts, and continue their aggressions and occupation. May God's damnation be upon their evil and arrogant supporters, who are turning a blind eye to these crimes against the innocent people. Such acts and crimes reveal day after day the real inhuman image of these culprits and their evil.

The leader of the Islamic revolution added: This lofty cleric, who combined knowledge with action and who was crowned with faithfulness and sacrifice, taught these principles along this path to achieve the sacred, sublime, and heavenly goals in defense of Islam and to confront injustice. This great man has earned martyrdom along that path and achieved eternal happiness. This path of his will be continued by the Lebanese Muslim people and the oppressed Palestinian people.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i added: These acts and crimes reveal day after day the real image of these culprits, who are against humanity, and reveal all their treacheries against the Muslims and the incessant conspiracies which they are concocting. The unjustly shed blood of that dear and great man and his innocent wife and son will make the genuine resistance of the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples against the usurpist Zionist entity more serious and profound.

The leader of the Islamic revolution added: Let Israel and America know that by committing such crimes they will not be able to maintain their hegemony, and they fear the peoples suffering under their injustice and mischief.

On the occasion of the this grievous tragedy, the martyrdom of cleric and mujahid 'Abbas al-Musawi, who continued his sincere jihad until his martyrdom, I convey my condolences to the Lebanese Muslim people, members and leaders of Hizballah, special condolences to the family of the innocent martyr, his friends, and all his devotees. I pray God to have mercy on our noble martyr. He constantly listens to prayers. May peace be upon God's pious followers. [Signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

Khomeyni Issues Statement

LD1702172292 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni has issued a statement which reads: The news of the martyrdom of the great general of Islam, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, secretary general of Lebanon's Hizballah, broke the hearts of all who believe in hostile action against the enemies of Islam and the Koran, especially against the Zionist regime and the puppets of world zionism.

The unjust martyrdom of that dear one showed for the 1,000th time that there is no other way for all revolutionaries but martyrdom, jihad, war, and struggle.

The statement also expresses condolences to the Lord of the Ages [Mahdi the expected], God hasten his auspicious advent, to enslaved Muslim nations, to the leader of the Islamic revolution, and to the dear Hizballah of Lebanon for the martyrdom of that combatant clergyman, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on 'Ugly Act'

LD1702185292 Tehran IRNA in English 1731 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani today termed as an "ugly act" the Zionist regime's assassination of leading Lebanese alim Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi.

"The aggression against south Lebanon and the assassination of martyr al-Musawi, the great combatant alim in Lebanon is an ugly act perpetrated by the Israelis. Their firing of missiles from helicopters at innocent people is an unprecedented act of terrorism in the world," the Iranian president told a packed press conference at the end of the two-day economic cooperation organisation (ECO) summit.

Asked whether al-Musawi's assassination would affect Iran's relations with the west, he replied: "We too will seriously follow up the issue. But the fact that we are going to change our policy as a result of this event is something else." [as received]

However, he added "the international community, too, should take some actions" towards the Zionist regime's latest crime in Lebanon.

"Our policy towards Israel is very clear. We reject the very existence of Israel as an entity on the territory of Palestine. This is a usurper regime. This is our position and nothing can be above this," the president made it clear.

Hoj. al-Musawi the secretary-general of the Hizbollah in Lebanon was assassinated yesterday along with his wife, a 6-year-old son and some companions, when Israeli helicopter gunships targeted his car with rockets near Touffahta village 12 kms from Nabatiya, south Lebanon.

On the impact of Israel's latest crime on the issue of hostages, Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said the matter relates to the Lebanese people.

"We have told the Lebanese people to do something to end this hostage question. Of course, the Lebanese forces are not going to react flexibly to this new event. They are going to be logical and reasonable.

"But I think Israel does not want to see the hostage question finished. They are putting obstacles and obstructions in the way to see the issue continue. This event (al-Musawi's assassination) will put the major powers a very clear test—that what they are going to do with this flagrant act of terrorism."

The Zionist State of Israel is holding as hostages hundreds of Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims including prominent alim Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd, who like several other unsuspecting people was kidnapped from his house by the terrorist state.

Hoj. al-Musawi's martyrdom has plunged Lebanon and the world's freedom- loving people into grief. Beirut was the scene of massive anti-Zionist and anti-American rallies today.

In Iran, the leader of the Islamic revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i strongly denounced Israel's dastardly act.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who is here for the first ECO summit, expressed "deep regrets" over Al-Musawi's assassination and denounced the terrorist act.

Velayati Condemns Assassination

LD1702160892 Tehran IRNA in English 1417 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati on Monday condemned the "unmanly" assassination of Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abbas al-Musawi, secretary-general of the Hizballah of Lebanon.

"Martyr Musawi attained martyrdom for the sake of Islamic causes of Lebanese Muslims. All his efforts were aimed at liberating occupied Lebanese territories and Palestine," Velayati told a press conference.

Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Musawi, his wife, a six-year-old son and some body guards were martyred Sunday as the car carrying them was targetted by rockets fired by Israeli helicopter gunships near Tuffatha village 12 kms from Nabatiya in south Lebanon.

Hojjat ol-Eslam al-Musawi had a leading role in organising the Hizballah in Lebanon, and was a personality held in high reverence by Muslims throughout the world, Velayati said.

The Iranian foreign minister felt confident that Lebanese Muslims would seriously pursue the goals of martyr Musawi in dealing blows on the Zionist regime.

"Blood of that martyr would water the plant of their struggle," he added.

Foreign Ministry—'Contempt' Toward Killing

NC1702070092 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran issued a statement at midnight last night expressing its contempt toward the Zionist regime's crime in martyring combatant 'Allamah Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi. The Foreign Ministry states that this terrorist act is the culmination of the Zionist regime's savageries in aggressing against Lebanese territory and violating the sovereignty of an independent country.

The statement adds that what makes usurping Israel bolder in perpetrating such crimes is the unconditional support it receives from the United States and the fact that international principles and regulations are ignored by some powers in the Security Council vis-a-vis Israeli aggressions.

As with the emergence of the Hizballah, the statement adds, the scene of the struggle against the Zionist regime completely changed and led to the defeat of the Zionist regime in Beirut and large parts of southern Lebanon, this oppressive martyrdom will result in the ousting of the last vestiges of the roots of corruption—Israel—from southern Lebanon and dear Palestine.

Delegation Departs for Funeral

NC1702070992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] A high-ranking delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran, headed by Ayatollah Jannati, representative of the esteemed leader, left for Beirut this morning to participate in the burial of the pure body of Hojjat ol-Eslam Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi.

Guards Corps Pays Tribute

LD1702225292 [Editorial Report]

[Editorial Report] Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian at 1519 GMT on 17 February

carries a 10-minute "special program on the martyrdom of Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi prepared by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps."

The program consists of archival video footage showing street scenes in Beirut, Ba'albak, and other locations in Lebanon, anti-Israeli graffiti on city and village walls, a meeting of young and old men being addressed by al-Musawi in a large hall, scenes of street clashes in Beirut as well as clashes between Palestinians and Israeli troops on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, children painting pro-Islamic graffiti on walls and standing in front of Khomeyni's portraits, and scenes of Shiite-inhabitated neighborhoods in Lebanon showing markets and armed men.

The voiceover commentary pays tribute to al-Musawi with an opening passage saying that Lebanon has once again given to Islam "another one of its courageous soldiers" and that the revolutionary Muslims of that country are mourning "a great martyr". It then goes on to say how al-Musawi's was martyred in a "terrorist" attack by the "occupying Zionists" yesterday along with members of his family.

After mentioning that he was one of the original organizers of the anti-Zionist struggle of the Muslims in Lebanon, the commentary continues by echoing the remarks made by Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, and by Iranian President Rafsanjani in their messages of condolences on 17 February about the steadfastness of revolutionary and Hizbollah Muslims who will not be disheartened by these kinds of "terrorist acts" under any circumstances and will continue to defend "Muhammad's pure Islam" and continue their struggle ever more intensely against the occupying Zionist regime, against oppression and aggression.

The commentary ends by saying that al-Musawi has now been rewarded by returning to his maker but that "there is no doubt that the blood of this noble disciple of the great Khomeyni will flow in the veins of thousands and thousands of brave young people and will, ultimately, by destroying Satan and his followers, hoist the pride-inspiring banner of Islam on the highest peaks of the world."

A song in Arabic concludes the special tribute.

Commentary Reviews al-Musawi's Life

LD1602223292 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 2030 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Martyr Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi was one of the founders of Lebanon's Islamic resistance and Hizballah. Throughout his term of office as secretary general of Lebanon's revolutionary movement of Hizballah, he was always in the forefront of the struggle against the regime occupying Qods [Jerusalem] and served as a guide to Lebanon's Muslim revolutionaries.

Throughout this period, through his leadership of Muslim fighters, he inflicted deadly blows on the Zionists in southern Lebanon, and those very same anti-Zionist operations aroused the rage of the Zionists against him and caused his martyrdom.

We should like to express our congratulations [because he achieved martyrdom] and condolences to all Muslims and resisters, especially Lebanon's Hezbollah, on the occasion of the martyrdom of the resistant cleric Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi. We hope that Muslim revolutionaries will continue to strive for the realization of his Islamic ideals and for the destruction of Israel.

Al-Musawi Assassination 'Horrific'

LD1702132892 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Once again the Zionist regime, by trampling on all moral principles and international regulations, has committed a new horrific crime. Thanks to this crime, the indefatigable combative clergyman Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi, secretary general of the Lebanese Hizballah, his wife and his small child and seven of his companions were martyred. [passage omitted]

Unfortunately the silence of the UN Security Council in the face of Israel's repeated violation of international regulations and the UN Charter, has encouraged this regime to commit any crime it desires without paying any attention to moral, humane, or legal principles. If the Security Council had reacted seriously to the crimes of the Zionist regime during its occupation of Lebanon in the year 1361 [corresponding to 21 March 1982 to 20 March 1983], if the world of Arab and Islam had confronted the matter appropriately, if the international, Arab, and Islamic organizations had reacted properly following the Zionists' assassination of Shaykh Raghib Harb in 1363, and if the Security Council and the United Nations had demonstrated a correct response to the abduction of Shaykh 'Abd al- Karim 'Ubayd and hundreds of other Lebanese from the southern region of that country in the year 1366 by the Zionist regime contrary to all international regulations and in violation of international peace, we would not have had a situation in which the leaders of the Zionist regime openly admit responsibility for the recent horrific crimes. They are even threatening the people of Lebanon and Palestine and the entire Muslim world like bullies that similar measures will be repeated.

At the present time Israel has eliminated security from the Middle East region and has drowned the region in blood, thanks to its state-run terrorism. Today no government in the world can match the illegal and usurping

Zionist regime in its violation of international laws, the UN Charter, and peace; and no doubt, as long as the Security Council and the Arab world maintain their illusion that the region can have peace and tranquility in the presence of Israel, the oppressed people of Lebanon and Palestine and other occupied territories will pay a bloody price for this wrong imagination.

The state of Lebanon is in tumult today, and no doubt it will not leave unanswered the crimes of the Zionist regime—the bombing of residential areas, massacre of outstanding figures, and the abduction of zealous and combative youths. The experience of the Zionist regime's repeated massacres in Lebanon and Palestine , particularly during the past 10 years, has demonstrated that [these acts] have brought no results but intensification of the anti- Zionist resistance among the people of these countries and the Islamic world. It is certain that the Islamic resistance and its outstanding figures such as Shaykh Raghib Harb, Hojjat ol-Eslam val- Moslemin Sayyid 'Abbas Musawi, and thousands of other blood-stained martyrs of this popular caravan are all part of a sacred Islamic reaction toard this state-run terrorism; and as long as this terrorism is not stopped, no one will be able to halt this moving Islamic caravan.

Commentary—Islamic Resistance To Continue

NC1702193792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Station political commentary]

[Excerpts] Israel, which commits new crimes against the oppressed Palestinian people and violates Lebanese territories and airspace every day, yesterday added a new abominable crime to its lengthy, black record by assassinating Lebanon's Hizballah Secretary General martyr 'Abbas al-Musawi and members of his family. Two helicopters of the Zionist enemy carried out a treacherous attack against al-Sayyid 'Abbas al-Musawi's motorcade, his family, and companions. [passage omitted]

International reaction to the assassination reveal that international circles and forums responsible for safeguarding regional and global security and stability have failed to live up to their responsibilities, which make it imperative upon them to confront Israel's aggressions against Lebanon's sovereignty. The Islamic peoples in the region, who during Iraq's aggression against Kuwait and the oil-motivated war saw a strong stand by these circles and superpowers regarding that crisis, cannot accept such a duality of stands. These peoples today are asking: Why does the Security Council not adopt similar firm measures to force Israel to implement UN Resolution 425? The continued violation of one country's sovereignty, as Israel has become accustomed to doing for years against Lebanon, is a serious matter that it cannot ignore or be silent about. Were it not for the silence maintained by the Security Council and the major powers over these continued violations and aggressions against an independent UN member state, Israel would not have dared to continue or step up its terrorist actions, as it officially did today.

Martyr 'Allamah 'Abbas al-Musawi is not the first important political and religious figure to be subjected to Israel's terrorism, and he will not be its last victim. But there is a firmly established fact that cannot be ignored; the Islamic resistance in Lebanon does not depend on individuals. It is a movement arising from the feelings and aspirations of Lebanese Mulsims to liberate southern Lebanon from the hands of Zionism. Such aspirations never can be eliminated by terrorism. On the contrary, Israel's terrorism will increase the Muslims' determination to be resistant and steadfast.

The U.S. Government's call on Lebanese Muslims to remain silent over the Zionist Israeli crimes, to forget about these crimes, and to avoid any reactions can never change reality. The Lebanese Muslims are well aware that Israel and America are working in coordination to strengthen international terrorism. The Islamic resistance in Lebanon will continue its jihad to liberate the last inch of Lebanese territory and undoubtedly will confront the Israeli aggressions against Lebanon. The Lebanese revolutionaries, who are always ready for sacrifices in their war against the Zionist aggressors, will not be dissuaded by the assassinations of political and religious personalities, despite their bitterness. They will never dissuade them from continuing their just jihad and struggle for the liberation of the territories and the homeland.

President on Turkey's Seizure of Arms-Laden Ship

LD1702200692 Tehran IRNA in English 1929 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 17 IRNA—President Akbar Hashemi- Rafsanjani, commenting on the confiscation by Turkey of a Cypriot-flagged ship carrying arms for Iran, said on Monday what had caused problem was the ship itself and not its cargo.

"A legal suit has been filed against the ship following a false report, because it belongs to Cyprus that is at odds with Turkey," the president told a news conference at the end of a two day summit meet of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

"We have strongly objected to the action (seizure) but the Turkish Government says that it is completely a judicial case," Rafsanjani pointed out. Rafsanjani also quoted Turkish officials as saying that their political decision is that the issue should be solved but that it was the judicial branch to be blamed for the delay.

The Turkish Judiciary has recently asked the parliament whether Turkey is at war with southern Cyprus so that it can issue its ruling on the confiscated ship on the basis of its answer. The ship was seized in October and court hearing on the case has been delayed for several times so far.

Aqazadeh—OPEC Production Cut 'Disappointing'

LD1602212692 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1530 GMT 16 Feb 92

[Text] OPEC members have reached agreement on cutting OPEC production by 1.2 million barrels per day.

The above news was announced by Oil Minister Aqazadeh when he was interviewed this afternoon on his arrival in Tehran from the Geneva OPEC supervisory committee session. Mr. Aqazadeh described the session's resulting agreement on a cut in output as disappointing. He added, however, that the session also decided to limit this agreement to a period of two months in view of the proximity of spring, which brings a drop in demand. After two months OPEC will review the outcome of the present agreement at its Vienna session.

Mr. Aqazadeh said: If all OPEC members restrict their quota to this ceiling and obey the decisions made by the supervisory committee, in our view this cut in production can at the most maintain the current prices, but it cannot be of any help to the market price.

Kuwaiti Interior Minister Invited To Visit

LD1702134992 Tehran IRNA in English 1016 GMT 17 Feb 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb. 17, IRNA—Iran's charge d'affaires in Kuwait 'Abdol Qasem Shashaei Sunday submitted an invitation from Iranian Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri-Hoseynabadi for his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Ahmad Hamud al-Jabir to visit Iran.

The Kuwaiti minister emphasized the need for expansion of Iran- Kuwait overall cooperation.

Shashaei praised Kuwait's Interior Ministry's efforts in making it possible to hold the first Iranian exclusive fair in that country, which opened February 11. More than 500 Iranian businessmen and representatives of the private sector are presently in Kuwait attending the fair which will be open till February 21.